

READY FOR HIS RETURN

"You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." (Luke 12:40 NIV)

First of all, my wife and I wish you a HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024. Our prayers and hopes are that in 2024 many of us will be more ready to welcome Christ's return. If any of us feel that we are not ready to face the second coming of Christ, it means that he must immediately change his way of life! Remember that the second coming of Christ will happen suddenly, so we must always be ready to welcome Christ's coming! Luke 12:40 says, "Be ready also, for the Son of Man is coming at a time when you least expect it." We are asked to be ready to wait for the coming of Christ. In the Gospel of Matthew, the Lord Jesus gives three parables in his end-time sermon to teach about the plan for His coming, namely: First, the parable of the servant who was given the authority to take care of the house while his master was away (Matthew 24:45-51). The one who gets praised is the servant who faithfully carries out his duties when his master is absent. This kind of servant is a servant who is wise because he is aware that his master can come at any time unexpectedly. A servant like this will gain greater trust. Second, the parable of the five wise virgins and the five foolish virgins (Matthew 25:1-13). This teaches about the need to be wise when waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus, namely by doing God's will. Living on our own will make us unprepared when the Lord Jesus returns. Third, the parable of the talents entrusted to servants (Matthew 25:14-30). This parable teaches that waiting for the Lord Jesus cannot be done passively (just waiting), but must be done actively (waiting while working). The Lord Jesus also gave a parable that reminds us that responsibility to God must be realized through an attitude of loving others (Matthew 25:31-46). At the time of the final judgment, we will be judged based on our attitudes and actions towards fellow humans. If we give food to the hungry or clothe the naked or give a lift to a stranger or visit those in prison, our actions will be counted by God as things done for Him. It is wrong if we think that what we do to fellow humans has nothing to do with faith in Allah! Love for God must be expressed in the form of love for others. If, for example, we know that Christ will come in a few days, should there be anything to change in our lives? If any of us feel that we are not ready to face the second coming of Christ, it means that he must immediately change his way of life! Remember that the second coming of Christ will happen suddenly. So we must always be ready to welcome the coming of Christ! In the letter 2 Peter 3, the apostle Peter said, that like in the days of Noah, before the flood, we will always see people eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage, and this will happen continuously until suddenly everything will change simultaneously (read Matthew 24:36-44). The Lord Jesus will come when we least expect it. Entering this new year, let us use the opportunity to change our way in areas of life which still needs to be changed. Let's prepare ourselves to continue to be changed so that we become more like our Lord and live more readily in waiting for His return. Lord Jesus bless you throughout 2024, Amen!

By Pastor Silwanus Obadja M.Th.