

Discussion and Reflection Questions

Advent 1 - Transformed by Hope 30th of November 2025

Read: Matthew 24.36-44

³⁶ 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Questions

1. This might seem to be a strange passage just before Christmas. Why do you think it is chosen?
2. Jesus says no one knows the day or hour. How can living with uncertainty deepen our hope instead of weakening it? What can help you live expectantly rather than anxiously?
3. What do you think Jesus means by the reference to "the days of Noah" in verses 37-39?
4. What does watchfulness look like in practical terms today? How can hope motivate attentiveness?
5. What spiritual disciplines help or could help keep you "awake"?
6. How does hope move us outward into mission, love, & service in a world often marked by despair?
7. Where is God calling you to be a sign of hope?

Prayer

Faithful God, whose promises stand unshaken through all generations: renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**