

SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES AND INTERACTIVE PDF

Ready for His Return

Grow in grace, keep your lamp burning, and be ready to welcome Jesus.

SERMON TITLE	MINISTER
Ready for His Return	Pastor Hannah Gillick
DATE	PRIMARY SCRIPTURE
Sunday, April 14, 2024	2 Peter 3:8-9 ; Matthew 25:1-13

TOPICS [Last Days / End Times](#) | [Grace](#) | [Repentance](#) | [Holiness](#) | [Prayer](#)

NOTES

Truth to carry into the week.

01 Grow in grace while God gives time.

- Peter reminds the church that the Lord is patient, desiring people to come to repentance. His apparent delay is mercy, not forgetfulness. ([2 Peter 3:8-9](#))
- The same chapter calls believers to holy conduct while awaiting the new heavens and new earth. Hope for His return should shape the way we live now. ([2 Peter 3:10-13](#))
- Beware of drifting with error; keep growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Pray for people who still need to turn to Him. ([2 Peter 3:17-18](#))

“Grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus.”

STUDY [2 Peter 3:8-9](#); [2 Peter 3:10-13](#); [2 Peter 3:17-18](#)

02 Keep oil in your own lamp.

- In the parable, the wise virgins brought oil, while the foolish were unprepared when the bridegroom came. The call is to readiness, not a calculation of the hour. ([Matthew 25:1-13](#))

- No one can sustain your relationship with God on your behalf. Make room for His Word, prayer, worship, and fellowship as a personal response to Him. ([Matthew 25:8-13](#); [John 15:4-5](#))
- When delay tests your patience, continue following Jesus. Refuse to let stress, offense, or distraction drain the attention you give Him. ([Matthew 25:5-13](#))

“This is a personal decision.”

STUDY [Matthew 25:1-13](#); [John 15:4-5](#)

03 Watch and be ready for service.

- Jesus tells His servants to keep their lamps burning and wait attentively for their master. Readiness includes faithful service today. ([Luke 12:35-40](#))
- The hour is unknown, so stay responsive when God prompts you to pray, encourage someone, or serve. Do the work placed in your hands. ([Luke 12:37-40](#))
- Take the message of His return as an invitation to hope and action rather than fear or speculation. ([Luke 12:40](#); [2 Peter 3:11-12](#))

“Let your waist be girded and your lamps be burning.”

STUDY [Luke 12:35-40](#); [2 Peter 3:11-12](#)

04 Choose His presence over the rush of tasks.

- Martha was occupied with serving while Mary sat at Jesus’ feet. Work has a place, but His presence must remain the first priority. ([Luke 10:38-42](#))
- Abiding in Christ is the source of lasting fruit. Return to Him rather than letting activity replace communion with Him. ([John 15:4-5](#))
- Eternal life is to know the Father and Jesus Christ whom He sent. Seek Him personally; another person’s walk cannot replace yours. ([John 17:3](#))

“I need to be at his feet.”

STUDY [Luke 10:38-42](#); [John 15:4-5](#); [John 17:3](#)

05 Let repentance keep your heart open.

- Peter calls believers to be found in peace and to guard their steadfastness. Readiness reaches the heart as well as outward behavior. ([2 Peter 3:14,17](#))
- When the Word exposes pride or an old pattern, respond with humility. Confess and turn instead of pulling away from the Lord. ([James 5:16](#); [1 John 1:9](#))

- Grace invites growth. Let difficult obedience deepen your trust in Christ and keep your heart honest before Him. ([2 Peter 3:18](#); [James 1:2-4](#))

“Live a life of repentance.”

STUDY [2 Peter 3:14-18](#); [James 5:16](#); [1 John 1:9](#)

06 Carry His mercy to others.

- God’s patience means there is still time for people to repent. Pray for family, neighbors, and anyone who has turned away. ([2 Peter 3:9](#))
- The church is called to make disciples. Share the hope of Jesus, encourage one another, and take a faithful step in the work He gives you. ([Matthew 28:19-20](#); [Hebrews 3:13](#))
- Keep your eyes on Jesus’ return while making good use of today. Be ready to welcome Him and help others know Him. ([Luke 12:35-40](#); [2 Peter 3:11-12](#))

“We are to be holy. We are to be set apart.”

STUDY [2 Peter 3:9](#); [Matthew 28:19-20](#); [Luke 12:35-40](#)

SCRIPTURE INDEX - NKJV

Read the Word in context.

[2 Peter 3:8-9](#)

[2 Peter 3:10-13](#)

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[Matthew 25:1-13](#)

[John 15:4-5](#)

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[2 Peter 3:14](#)

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[Matthew 28:19-20](#)

How will I stay ready for Jesus?

What is helping me keep my own lamp burning in this season?

Where do I need to choose time with Jesus over busyness or distraction?

What has the Lord shown me to confess, release, or change?

Who can I pray for or encourage while God gives time to respond to Him?
