

AT ANY MOMENT

Selected scriptures

Introduction

- I. The **Passages** That Introduce Imminency – John 14:1-3, 1 Thessalonians 5:4-9, Revelation 22:20, Luke 21:28, Romans 8:23, 1 Corinthians 1:7, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, Philippians 3:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:2, Titus 2:13, Hebrews 10:25, James 5:8-9, 1 Peter 4:7, Revelation 22:7

- II. The **Pronouns** That Insist on Imminency – 1 Thessalonians 4:15,17

- III. The **Parables** That Illustrate Imminency – Mathew 24:36, Matthew 24:44, Mathew 25:13, Luke 12:37

- IV. The **Principle** That Involves Imminency

- V. The **Practice** That Interprets Imminency
 - A. **Consolation** – 1 Thessalonians 4:18, 1 Thessalonians 4:13
 - B. **Expectation**
 - C. **Consecration** – 1John 3:2-3
 - D. **Examination** – John 14:4-6

Conclusion

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Getting Started

1. Think of a time when you had to wait - waiting for someone to arrive, waiting outside of an event before it began, or possibly waiting for a place to open its doors. What was that experience like? What did you do while you waited?

Everyone has some version of this feeling. If not a movie or a concert with locked doors until a certain time, then a store or theme park, perhaps. Some outside-the-box ideas might include waiting for the guest of honor at a surprise party or even waiting for someone's flight to arrive so you can pick them up at the airport. All of these have a specific timeframe that the waiting is expected to end.

2. Think about your answer above, and tell how your waiting experience would have been different if you had known that it could have happened at any moment.

Waiting to yell "surprise" would be so different if you had no idea when the person would arrive! Likewise, waiting outside of a door that could swing open at any moment is not the same as if you have a sense of a *later* time it will happen. In both cases, there'd be no sitting, setting your stuff down, or casual conversation. You probably wouldn't play with your phone or even face away from the door. Think of the buzz of anticipation that comes when you know it's *almost* time. THAT is what we are talking about with the idea of *imminence*.

Going Deeper

1. We studied the word *Imminent* in the sermon this week. Using an internet search or a thesaurus, look up some synonyms for *Imminent*. Write down 3-5 of them that capture the idea of *Imminent* as Pastor Jeremiah spoke of it this week. This might feel like homework, but it helps broaden the concept and help us get a sense of how familiar this feeling is. "About to happen," is my personal favorite.

2. Read I Thessalonians 5:4-9 and Ephesians 5:15-21. What is the main idea of both passages? **Think of it this way: when you know time is short, how likely are you to waste it?**

3. Read the following verses and write down the action we are to take in light of the imminence of Christ's return.

Romans 8:23

I Corinthians 1:7

Philippians 3:20

Titus 2:13

4. Read Luke 12:35-38. How should the fact that Christ (the Master in this story) could return at any time impact our behavior in the meantime? **A word that comes to mind with this parable is vigilance: the Master of the house should expect to come home to his staff being at the ready, on duty, and doing the work he employs them to do.**

5. Who do you know that lives as if Jesus could return at any moment? Now, think of a person who lives as if Jesus' return won't happen for a long time, if ever. What are the differences between these two lifestyles?

Applying the Message

1. Are you living your life in light of Christ's imminent return? If He returned *right now*, would he find you waiting eagerly (Philippians 3:20) and walking circumspectly (Ephesians 5:15)? **Another way to approach this question is to think of the two people you described in question #5 above. Who do you feel you resemble the most? In what ways?**

2. What can you do this week to keep the idea of imminence at the top of your awareness? What or who can you rely on to remind you? **This might be a post-it on your dash/bathroom mirror/desk, a daily reminder programmed into your phone, a friend you talk or text with a few times this week, or a memory verse you choose to recite each day. Be specific. (Ideas for notes or phone reminders: "What if it was NOW?" or, "About to happen," or simply, "Imminence." Verses to memorize could be Luke 12:37, Matthew 24:44, or Matthew 25:13 - there are many others!)**