

## **Holy Week Devotions**

Readiness by Rev. Tianna Durbin

### **Scripture: Matthew 24:36–44**

As we near the end of our worship series on the Gospel of Matthew, we can't wrap up without spending time with one of the more challenging and awe-filled themes: the second coming of Jesus. It may feel heavy, especially when the world around us seems full of exhaustion, conflict, and pain. But in Matthew 24, Jesus doesn't share this teaching to stir fear—He shares it to stir *readiness* and *hope*.

If you're tired and weary, hear this: Jesus Christ offers the promise of joyful anticipation. A day is coming when there will be no more sorrow, no more war, no more brokenness. But until that day comes, Jesus invites us to live fully alert, awake, and aligned with what matters most. Being “ready” doesn't mean having life perfectly figured out. It means living as though our guest of honor—Jesus Himself—could walk through the door at any moment. What kind of life do we want to be found living when He does? For me, I want to be found doing what Jesus has commanded of us: loving God and loving others.

I think about this kind of readiness every time my son Jake comes home from college. A few weeks beforehand, I find myself preparing—cleaning the house, planning meals (because he LOVES to eat), and just joyfully anticipating his return. That kind of excitement and preparation lifts my spirit. I believe that's what Jesus invites us into—a life of hopeful, joyful readiness for His return.

Yes, the world is full of chaos. Yes, there are wars and rumors of wars. But Jesus reminds us that we are not powerless. We've been given the holy privilege of shining light into the darkness—for such a time as this.

So what does “readiness” look like today? It might mean carving out time for prayer, even when your schedule is full. It could mean offering forgiveness when resentment would be easier. It might look like serving someone without asking questions or expecting anything in return. These simple acts of faithfulness say, “I'm ready.”

Friends, Sunday is coming. And so is Christ. His return is not a threat—it is a promise. A promise that this broken world is not the end of the story. Until He comes again, let's live with purpose, with unwavering hope, and with a love that doesn't hold back.

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**Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, stir our hearts to live each day in readiness—anchored in Your love and reflecting Your grace in all we do. In this in-between time, as we await Your return, may Your blessings rest upon our lives, our families, our friends, and all Your people. Replace our fear with faith, and our worry with the hope of Your promised coming. Come, Lord Jesus. Come and make all things new. Amen.