



Meditation— Matthew 24.^{42, 44, 46}

⁴²Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

⁴⁴Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

⁴⁶Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

At one point in William Douglas' novel, *The Robe*, sometime after Jesus' death and resurrection, one of Jesus' disciples, Justus, travels with a Roman citizen ignorant of the claim of Jesus' resurrection. As they travel through Galilee, "Justus turned about; and, shielding his eyes with his cupped hands, gazed intently down the road over which they had come.... It was not the first time that Justus had stopped to look backwards. And whenever they had come to a crossing, he had paused to look carefully in all directions. He did not seem to be apprehensive of danger. It was rather as if he had made an appointment to meet someone up here."

Though fictional, this narrative captures, I think, the loss that the disciples felt with Jesus' departure, and their desires and expectations for his return. It speaks to their love for and dependence upon him. It also captures the sort of watchfulness in which we should live. It captures the sort of love we should have for him. It captures the anticipation of his presence that should animate our lives. It captures the sort of need for him that we ought to possess and confess every chance we get. Such watchfulness and love and anticipation and confession is pleasing to him and necessary for our spiritual health.

The Advent and Christmas season is not only a time to look back to Jesus' first coming, but forward to a second coming. Whether one understands this second coming in the traditional sense or not, one can certainly understand "the" second coming as that in which he enters intimately into each of our lives as he entered so intimately into so many lives during his mortal ministry.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

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