

Continued sermon thoughts on Mathew 24. From November 27 2022 sermon.

Jesus says in Matthew 24:36, concerning the hour of His return, “Even the Son of Man doesn’t know” – wow, “even I don’t know.” And, of course, this has created all kinds of interesting discussions. How is it that Jesus Christ, who is God, cannot know something? How is it that Jesus Christ, who is God, who is omniscient – which means He knows everything – can’t know something or doesn’t know something?

I believe it’s rather easily explained if we understand the meaning of His incarnation. Jesus Christ is fully God, very God of very God, theologians say. He is God, fully and totally because you can’t be part God, He is all God. But when He became a man, He voluntarily restricted the use of His godhood, of His divine attributes. It wasn’t that He laid the attributes aside; it wasn’t that He set His deity aside; it was that He restricted the use of those things. He had them as instruments but chose not to pick them up and use them. So, He lived, as it were, without using His omniscience unless the Father told Him to use it. It’s as if the Father only revealed to Him the next great event, and the Father never revealed to Him the full moment of His second coming until He had already come out of the grave and accomplished the resurrection, and then the Father opened to Him the next event in His marvelous, marvelous work.

And so, He says, “people don’t know and angels don’t know and for now even I don’t know,” in order to show the tremendous unexpectedness, suddenness, and mystery of the moment of the second coming of Jesus Christ. And then at the end of verse 36, “But My Father only.” So, we must be prepared for his coming, “Ready or Not”

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