

A LIVING FAITH LESSON ON **ACCOUNTABILITY**

Theme: Accountability

Object: An analog clock

Scripture: Matthew 24:36,44 (RSV or KJV)
"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect."



Paree Looy!

When I was a child in school, one of the things that the teacher taught us was how to tell time. We had a big cardboard clock, which would allow the teacher to move the hands so that we could learn to tell time. The small hand on the clock tells you the hour and the big hand tells you the minutes. Do you know how to tell time using a clock like this? If the big hand is on twelve and the little hand is on four, what time is it? That's right it is four o'clock. (You might to try several, if time permits.) Most of us don't use a clock like this anymore, most of us use a digital clock. A digital clock tells you both the hour and the minutes using numbers, such as 11:15. That's much easier, isn't it?

No matter what kind of clock we use, most of us look at it many times each day to check to see what time it is. Suppose that your best friend was to pick you up at two o'clock to go to a movie. First, you would make sure you were dressed and ready to go, and then, as the time drew near, you would be waiting and watching for your friend to come. If you know how to tell time, you would probably check the clock every few minutes to see if it was time for your friend to be there. If you don't know how to tell time, you would be asking your mom, "Is it two o'clock yet?"

This Sunday we are reminded that we are looking forward to the coming of a very important event. The return of Jesus!

What does it mean to be **accountable**? (*Pause for responses.*) Being **accountable** means being responsible for and having to explain your actions. For example, if mom tells you not to eat cookies before dinner and you decide to have some cookies anyway, you can be sure that mom is going to hold you **accountable** for your actions and ask you why you chose to not follow her directions! How about if you see someone who is hurt or crying and you turn away and don't do anything to help. Or if you see someone who is hungry and you don't offer to give them food. How would you justify these actions? Who do you think will be holding you **accountable** for behaving this way?

Jesus told us that he would come again, but he didn't tell us what time he would be here. In fact, he said, "No one knows the day or hour when I will return. Only the Father knows. That is why you must be ready, I will come at a time when you least expect it." Wow! If we don't know when He is coming, how will we be ready? By being **accountable** for the things that our Lord would want us to be doing - loving one another, caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, and helping the poor. If we are doing those things, we will be ready when He comes.

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, we look forward to the day when you return. Help us to be **accountable** for the way we to live so that we will be ready when you come. Amen.