

c. The parable of the thief

Matthew 24:43-44 -- "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.

Which concept of imminency is implied? It would appear that either unconditional or delayed Imminency is implied.

d. The parable of the household steward

Matthew 24:45-51 -- "Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But if that evil slave says in his heart, "My master is not coming for a long time," and shall begin to beat his fellow-slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know, and shall cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; weeping shall be there and the gnashing of teeth."

Which concept of imminency is implied in this parable? Since the master in this illustration is envisioned as making an extensive trip necessitating a period of delay, and since there is no event envisioned after which he can be expected to return, delayed imminency would appear to be clearly implied.

e. The parable of the doorkeeper

Mark 13:34-37 -- "It is like a man, away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. Therefore, be on the alert -- for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrowing, or in the morning; -- lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!' "

Which concept of imminency is implied in this parable of the doorkeeper? Again, delayed imminency is clearly implied, since a trip is involved (thus some delay), and there is no event envisioned after which he can be expected to return. The master of the house can return at any time of the day or the night; and therefore it is necessary to be alert, watchful, and ready at all times!

f. If Matthew 25 is seen as part of the Olivet Discourse, then two additional parables imply delayed imminency: the parable of the five prudent and five foolish virgins, and the parable of the talents.