

## For the Love of an Imperative Verb Matthew 24: 36-44

<sup>36</sup>"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field, one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>**Keep awake** [γρηγορεῖτε, **grēgoreîte**], therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But **understand** [γινώσκετε, **ginōskete**] this: if the owner of the house had know in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed away and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also **must be** [γίνεσθε, **ginesthe**] ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unspecified hour. [NRSV89]

### 24:42

γρηγορεῖτε, **grēgoreîte**; *vb: pres act imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> pers pl* from γρηγορέω  
translations: **keep awake** [NRSV89], also **be on guard** [NGEINT], **keep watch** [NIV11], **stay awake** [ESV, NAB, NJB], **watch** [NKJV; Albright & Mann, Filson], **velad** [IAdNT]

Filson: Present imperative: be continuously on the watch. Watch means be prepared in spirit and in life.

Crossett: I'm having difficulty with some of the English translations. "On guard" seems too defensive; "keeping / staying awake" too sleepless. How about "be vigilant?" Does "vigil" mean constant wakefulness? But is that strong enough?

### 24:43

γινώσκετε, **ginōskete**; *vb: pres act imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> pers pl* from γινώσκω  
translations: **know** [ESV, NKJV, NGEINT; Filson], **be sure** [NAB], **be quite sure** [NIV11], **realize** [Albright & Mann], **understand** [NIV11, NRSV89], **conoced** [IAdNT]

### 24:44

γίνεσθε, **ginesthe**; *vb: pres mid / pass imperative 2<sup>nd</sup> pers pl* from γίνομαι  
translations: **must be** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NIV11; Albright & Mann, Filson], **be** [NKJV, NGEINT], **must stand** [NIV11], **llegad a ser** [IAdNT]

Filson: Be constantly prepared by living in alert faith, steady loyalty, and faithful obedience.

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*Gene Crossett, Jr.  
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