

## THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

### Now?

I was “running late” again...

I hadn't had breakfast, was hurrying to make lunches, trying to find children's mittens and hats... (“Mom, have you see a pencil?” “Look in the desk.”)...and there went the phone again... (“Can I call you back?! Thanks. Talk to ya later.”)

A carpool was due any minute and I took a quick look out the window before putting on boots.

Invariably, it happens on those mornings when I've “put off” doing something, (like getting up when the alarm clock goes off...the first time). I should know by now to get up right away; because the longer I delay, the harder it is to get moving at all.

I took another look, as I passed the window, and headed into the kitchen, took a gulp of coffee, and looked again before going in search of something. (“Has anyone seen my keys?!”)

I was in the bedroom when I heard the loud blast of a horn. (Damn!)

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There has to be some “law” that says: “Carpools Never Arrive When You’re Looking Out the Window”...or, more precisely...”They Always Seem Early When You’re Rushing Around and Always Seem Late When You’re Not.”

But, of the two situations, I prefer the second...for on those mornings, all things are accomplished at a leisurely pace: I’ve had my food and even have time to sit in front of the window with a second cup of coffee. Therefore,

*“Take heed, watch: for you do not know when the time will come.”*

[Mark 13:33]

And, when it does arrive, we can be ready to step into the car just as it’s pulling in the drive. And it’s a cinch we’ll be met with a smile, for there’s nothing a driver likes more than someone who’s “ready and waiting.”

(December 3, 1979)