

The Random Gate

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-5... (2) *For you yourselves know accurately that the day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night*

I still remember when the random gate was introduced in BMX. Before this it was a timed cadence and everyone knew exactly when the gate was going to drop. In fact, because everyone knew when the gate was going to drop, many riders developed a sling shot technique. To find a solution to this problem and level the playing field, the random gate was developed. Once on the gate we hear the cadence section and then wait for the beeps to happen when the gate drops. We know that the gate will drop but now with the random gate, we don't exactly when it will drop so we have to be ready.

In training for the new random gate our technique had to change and change drastically. First you have to be ready. But this it means you need to be on your bike, set up and ready to go. You need to get into the gate, get clipped in and then relax and wait. If you're not on your bike, clipped in, or set up then when the gate drops you will not get a good start as everyone will probably leave you behind. So the first step of being ready is really important

Second you need to be focused. This means no talking, looking around or horsing around in the gate. If we are not focused then we may miss the cadence and not get off the gate. It is easy to get distracted if we are not focused. Thirdly we need to react. We can be locked and loaded, setup, and be focused on the gate but when we hear the first beep if we don't make our pull then being setup and focused doesn't matter.

This set of verses makes me think about being on the gate. Jesus is coming back, that is what "the day of the Lord" is referring to and as it says it will come as a thief in the night. As Mathew Henry says in his commentary, "as a thief in the night" means Christ's return will be sudden and a great surprise. In other words, we will not know when Jesus is returning just like we don't know when the gate will drop. But just as we can be ready for the gate to drop we can also be ready for His return just as Paul speaks of in verses 4 and 5 and not left "on the gate".

We can take the same actions to be ready for Jesus' return just as we do while on the gate. First we need to be ready, lock and loaded. That would mean us being a Christian. If we are not a Christian, that would be like being on the gate with a bike. Second we need to be focused. Just like being focused on the gate we can be focused on the Lord. We do this by studying our bible and praying. Last we need to react. As a Christian as are told not to just listen to the Word (the bible) but also do what it says to do (Js 1:22).

Points to Ponder

- We need to be on our bike set up ready to go, we need to be sure we are a Christian
- We need to focus on the gate, we need to read our bible and spend time in prayer
- We need to react when we hear the beeps, we need to also do what the bible says to do

Additional Readings:

Mat 24:32-51; 2 Peter 3:9-10; Mark 13:28-37