

Luke 12 pt 3 vs. 35-48

³⁵ “Be dressed in readiness, and *keep* your lamps lit. ³⁶ Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open *the door* to him when he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself *to serve*, and have them recline *at the table*, and will come up and wait on them. ³⁸ Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds *them so*, blessed are those *slaves*.”

³⁹ “But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.”

⁴¹ Then Peter said to Him, “Lord, do You speak this parable *only* to us, or to all *people*?”

⁴² And the Lord said, “Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* master will make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of food in due season? ⁴³ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁴ Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. ⁴⁵ But if that servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, ⁴⁶ the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the unbelievers. ⁴⁷ And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare *himself* or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*. ⁴⁸ But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.”

1. Dr. Luke has been taking us through the life of Jesus
 - a. From His announcement to Mary about the Messiah
 - b. To His temptation in the wilderness
 - c. To calling His disciples
 - d. To His miracles
 - e. Now we’re in a passage of Jesus’ teachings
 - f. Teaching on not having hypocrisy, greed or worry
 - i. being greedy, pretending, and worrying is focusing in me (old nature)
 - ii. Instead, be prepared for the Lord’s return

2. In this parable, Jesus gives us the why & how to be prepared

3. Why?

- a. A day is coming when the Lord will return to take His bride home

- i. Jesus said “I go to prepare a place for you...” (John 14)
- ii. Be ready as the Son of Man is coming at an hour we don't expect
- iii. **1 Thes 4:16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.
- iv. **1 Cor 15:51** Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed
- v. Jesus said He's returning & we don't want to be surprised by His return
- vi. So we're to live prepared for that day...
- b. Because rewards will be given rewards in heaven for faithfulness
 - i. **1 Pet 5:4** And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory
 - ii. Vs. 42 “Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* master will make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of food in due season?
⁴³ Blessed *is* that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁴ Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has

4. How to not be ready?

- a. 1st make sure that you are a child of God
- b. There are people who attend church who may believe they're Christians
 - i. They may even be serving in the church
 - ii. **Vs. 45** But the servant who thinks the master delays:
 - iii. Begins to beat his fellow servants

- iv. Eat drink and be drunk
- v. Living for selfish desires and not for the things of God
- vi. They beat up on others within the church
 - 1. Talking bad about others & treating them with contempt
 - 2. They will be the most surprised and will be judged accordingly
 - 3. **Appointed with the unbelievers**
- c. Then there are true believers who know the truth but are lazy
 - i. **And that servant who knew his master's will and did not prepare himself or do according to his will shall be beaten with many stripes (vs. 47)**
 - 1. Which means God's discipline will be on that person
 - ii. Other believers who remain ignorant of God's purpose to be ready & serve will also be disciplined but to a lesser degree
 - 1. In both of these cases, these believers miss out on God's plan for their lives
- d. We don't want to be under God's discipline
 - i. We want God's blessing and His best for our lives

5. **How to be ready?**

- i. *Footnote on being ready*
 - 1. Being ready indicated the free choice we have to choose
 - 2. Life is not what happens to me.
 - 3. It's what I allow in my heart & mind that determines my outcome
- a. **Realizing that you are a steward over the life that God gave you**
 - ii. Within this life, God has given you certain gifts to use
 - iii. **1 Peter 4:10** As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God

1. Some have been gifted in leading
2. Others in teaching
3. Some in serving...
 - a. We're to use these gifts to serve one another
 - b. Everyone who claims to be a follower of Jesus has a role to play as a servant
 - c. In serving one another we're serving The Lord
 - d. Serving and loving others from a pure heart is an indication that my relationship with God is on track
4. **Jesus tells us how to be prepared**

5. **Loins girded, lamps burning, Lord expecting**

6. **Loins girded**

- a. An ancient way of calling for that preparation was to "gird up your loins" (NIV: "be dressed ready for service").
- b. Those who gird themselves, do so for service
- c. Paul tells us to be girded with the belt of truth (Eph 6:14)
- d. **1 Pet 1:13** gird up the loins of your mind, be sober
- e. The original language implies a constant state of readiness; remaining ready
- f. To allow God's truth (entire truth) into my heart and live from a place of truth
- g. **If anyone needed this truth, it was Peter**
- h. Simon is his given name (Reed)

- i. That would explain his early life in following Jesus (up & down)
 - ii. Jesus changed his name to Peter (Rock)
- i. Peter explains what being girded with truth looks like
 - i. Be sober (be aware and focused)
 - ii. Rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ
 - iii. Don't conform anymore to the former lusts
 - iv. Choose to be holy as God is holy
- j. **Peter, what do you do when you slip up and make a mess?**
 - i. 'I get back up'
 - ii. Because we were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ...
 - iii. If Jesus thinks I'm worth it and that I can live a godly life, who am I to say otherwise
 - iv. I choose to think with His thoughts
 - v. We've been given the mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:16)

7. Lamps burning

- a. **Our lamps are our spirits**
 - i. **Prov 20:30** The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all his innermost parts
 - ii. **The mind is the gateway into your spirit**
 - iii. God's Word illuminates the mind and spirit.

- iv. That's why The Lord told Joshua to meditate day and night and continue if you want to prosper
- v. Your spirit will naturally be bright as God's truth is consumed
- vi. **Php 2:15** that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world
- vii. This is important because when God leads us into service, He does it through our spirits
- viii. Many times, we want to have God lead us through our natural senses, but that's not how things work
- ix. As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God (Rom 8:14)
- x. As Peter took in the truth of what Jesus said to him, prison didn't matter; he slept peacefully
 - 1. Although James was just beheaded
- xi. And from here we can say, He leads me by still waters...
- xii. Having your lamps burning

8. Lord expecting / watching

- a. Blessed are you if you're watching
- b. Watching means serving but also reflecting on the person of Jesus Himself
- c. What will keep you girded and burning is not a pep talk to begin serving
- d. What will keep you girded and burning is watching the Lord Himself

- e. **2nd Pet 3:15** and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation
 - i. Consider His goodness
 - ii. His Mercy
 - iii. His forgiveness

 - f. **Heb 12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted

 - g. Watching Him in scripture and watching for Him imminent return

 - h. Watch for the Lord in my personal life as well as our corporate fellowship

 - i. The body serving together is a body watching together
- b. If you do, you'll be blessed beyond belief
- iv. **Vs. 37** The Lord will personally gird Himself and serve us

 - v. That will be a glorious day

 - vi. Until then, we'll have our loins girded, lamps burning, and watching for the return of Jesus by serving one another