

People Get Ready, Jesus is Coming Back

Luke 12:35-48

Main Point: Followers of Jesus faithfully wait, watch, and work—expecting his certain return and anticipating his promised blessings.

Parable 1 – The Waiting & Watching Servants (35-38) Wait Patiently and Expectantly for the Master’s Return.

1st Command: Stay ready for the Master’s return. (35-36)

(Be ready for the return of Jesus.)

³⁵ “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.

4 Specific Instructions in this Command:

1. Stay dressed for action. (Stay ready for Jesus’ return.)
2. Keep your lamps burning. (Wait up for Jesus.)
3. Be like men who are waiting for their master to come home. Wait with anticipation. (Be watchful for Jesus.)
4. Open the door. (Be ready to welcome Jesus.)

1st Promise: Blessed are the servants who are ready for the Master’s return: He will serve them. (37-38)

(Blessed are the faithful followers of Jesus, for when he returns, he will serve and supper with them.)

³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!

Parable 2 - The Watchful Homeowner (39-40)

Watch Attentively for the Master’s Return.

1st Warning: Servants must always be ready for the certain—but unknown time—of the Master’s return. (39-40)

(We don’t and won’t know when Jesus will return so we must remain vigilant and watchful.)

³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Pardon the Interruption: A Question from Peter (41)

⁴¹ Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?”

Parable 3: The Wisely Working Servant (42-48)

Work Wisely and Faithfully Until the Master’s Return.

2nd Command: Be faithful and wise servants who obey and serve the Master well—even and especially when he is away. (42)

(Obey and serve Jesus faithfully and wisely.)

⁴² And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time?”

2nd Promise: Blessed are the servants who serve and obey the Master in his absence—He will reward them. (43-44)
(Blessed are the obedient servants Jesus, for when he returns, he will reward their faithful service.)

⁴³ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁴ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

2nd Warning: Servants who disobey and disloyal to the Master will be held accountable and receive justice. (45-48)
(Those that disobey Jesus will be held accountable.)

⁴⁵ But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, ⁴⁶ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. ⁴⁷ And that servant who knew his master’s will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. ⁴⁸ But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

3 categories of servants in Vs. 45-48:

1. 45-46: The User & Abuser
2. 47: The Knowledgeable but Negligent Servant
3. 48a: The Ignorant and Negligent Servant

Final Application:

Commands:

1. Be ready for the return of Jesus.
2. Obey and serve Jesus faithfully and wisely.

Warnings:

1. We don’t and won’t know when Jesus will return so we must remain vigilant and watchful.
2. Those that disobey Jesus will be held accountable.

Promises:

1. Blessed are the faithful followers of Jesus, for when he returns, he will serve and supper with them.
2. Blessed are the obedient servants Jesus, for when he returns, he will reward their faithful service.