

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier

**Luke 12:35-48** – “Be Ready to Meet Jesus”

- A. None of us knows the day or hour of Christ’s return.
- B. Earlier in **Lu 12**, Jesus taught the necessity of having treasure stored up in heaven. Jesus also taught the necessity of great faith as the cure for worry.

Each of you must be ready to meet Jesus.	I. <b><u>BE A READY SLAVE OF CHRIST</u></b> II. <b><u>GOD’S JUDGMENT ON THE DISOBEDIENT</u></b>
--	--

I. **BE A READY SLAVE OF CHRIST-**

A. Jesus used an illustration here saying that believers are to be compared to slaves waiting for a Master who represents the Son of Man— the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

1. Paul in **Rom 1:1** and **Gal 1:10** called himself a **“bondservant of Christ Jesus.”** In **Phil 1:1**, Paul introduced himself and Timothy as **“bondservants of Christ Jesus.”**

a. A **“bondservant”** is defined as “one bound to service without wages.”<sup>1</sup> That is the very same thing as a slave.

b. It is better and more straightforward to translate the Greek here as slave; however, some may feel it doesn’t sound politically correct.

c. If the holy apostle Paul deemed it fitting to call himself a slave Christ, so should you.

2. Theoretically, if you are considered a wage-earner for the Lord Jesus, you can quit your service to Him. As a slave, you sold-out to Jesus because He purchased you through His precious blood.

B. Jesus said you are to be a ready slave, waiting for His return. → **vv35-38**

1. Christians, you are to be ready and waiting because you don’t know when He will come to the door and knock.

2. The Jews divided an evening into three military watches for guard duty. The second watch was from 10 PM to 2 AM. The third watch was from 2 AM to sunrise.

3. In **v37**, we find something that never happened in earthly master-slave relationships. The blessedness of the slaves found waiting on alert for Jesus, is that **“He will gird Himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them.”**

a. Ready slaves will be blessed slaves!

b. Jesus serving us? Some may say, “That can’t be right!” Peter thought the same.

c. → **Jn 13:3-14**

4. Jesus also used the illustration of a ready slave preventing a late-night break-in. → **vv39-40**

C. Answering Peter, Jesus spoke of a slave serving as a **“faithful and sensible steward ... in charge of His servants, to give them their rations at the proper time.”**

1. Paul wrote in **1 Cor 4:1-2**: **“Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.”**

2. A gospel minister is to give those under his charge their regular rations of the eternal Word.

a. God blesses those faithful in keeping this charge. → **vv 43-44**

b. It is a woeful thing for those called to this duty who neglect or compromise God’s Word!

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bond%20servant>

## II. GOD'S JUDGMENT ON THE DISOBEDIENT

- A. Carelessness about the return of Christ can tempt one to be disobedient. In **v45**, such a slave **“says in his heart, ‘My master will be a long time in coming.’”**
1. Whether it is the return of Christ or the end of one's life, we don't know when either will happen causing our soul to be required of us from God.
  2. The rich fool earlier in **vv16f**, lived in such a way without regard to God or towards the needs of others. After hoarding his wealth, he thought he would have years of ease. Instead, he died and God required his soul from when he did not expect it.
  3. In **v46**, because the slave is careless about his Master's return, this disobedient man **“begins to beat the slaves, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk.”**
    - a. There are cases of disobedient pastors abusing those under his care instead of shepherding them and feeding them with the Word of God.
    - b. Disobedient parents who are given a physical and spiritual stewardship to care for their children can likewise sin by abusing them instead.
    - c. Instead of living as examples, disobedient pastors, parents, or other spiritual stewards may abuse alcohol or get consumed with some other terrible sin.
- B. Notice the terrible fate for the careless, disobedient slave. → **v46**
1. It is implied that this terrible judgment will come upon such who profess to be believers. They may claim to believe in the Triune God, yet practically speaking, they live just like the worst of atheists.
  2. Such a man or woman may say that Jesus is their Lord and Savior, yet their lawless life betrays that they are wicked and disobedient.
  3. Jesus spoke about such people in **Mat 7:21-23**. Turn there.
- C. Jesus taught there are levels or degrees of suffering in hell. → **vv47-48**
1. This answers the concerns some have about tribes who live in secluded places void of the gospel.
    - a. They will suffer less than those who hear the gospel yet deny it either verbally or by deed.
    - b. God still holds all people accountable according to **Rom 1:20**: **“His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”**
  2. You have been given much truth of God Word, especially regarding Christ's sacrificial death for sinners such as you. Much is required of you because you have been entrusted with much.

Review, further application, and conclusion: