

Luke 12:35-48

I want to continue our discussion today about being ready.

1. Are we ready to stand before Christ?
2. Are we ready for His return?

Are we ready? Are you ready?

In this parable in Luke 12, Jesus shares with us four simple ways that we can and must be ready for his return. We began looking at the text last week. We will finish it up this morning and hopefully answer the question: How can we be ready?

I. Dress for Action v35a

“Be dressed in readiness,

Stay dressed and ready for action!

1. 2 Tim 2:4 *No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him*

2. Understand the War, the Wardrobe, and the Weapons

II. Keep your Lamp Burning v35b-36

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.

1. Make sure you have the oil of the Holy Spirit
 - a. Repent
 - b. Believe
2. Make sure you are continually being filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18)
3. Keep your lamp burning or you will not be ready.

III. Strive for the Reward v37-38

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.

The master will dress himself and serve those who are ready

1. I struggled with this more than any other part of the message.
2. Jesus serves us?
 - a. In heaven we will serve him!
 - b. We will praise him!
 - c. We will bow before him, and honor him, and glorify him, and throw our crowns at

His feet!

3. But here, we see that at the marriage supper, he will dress himself for service, have us recline at table, and he will serve us?

It is made even more amazing when you read the parable of the unworthy servants.

1. Luke 17:7-10 *"Will any one of you who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and recline at table'? Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you will eat and drink'? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"*

2. We do not deserve anything!
3. We don't even deserve a thank you. All that we do for Him is our duty!
4. We deserve nothing and yet, not only does he redeem us, and justify us, but then he serves us

Blessed are those servants.

1. I don't know what it means and how it fits with the rest of God's Word about eternity, but I know what it says.
2. And I know, we should be striving and looking forward to that reward.
3. That is just another reason to be ready

IV. Expect the Unexpected v39-40

1. Be ready, for the time of his return is **unknown**

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.*

1. Matt 24:42 *Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.*
2. Matt 25:13 *Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.*

2. Be ready for the time of his return is not only unknown, it will be **unexpected**

40 *You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect."*

1. 1 Thess 5:2 *For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape*

2. Luke 21:34-36 *"But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."*

The second coming is certain, but the time and the order is not known.

1. It will be at an unexpected hour.
2. We must therefore live in constant readiness.

How will you be found?

41 Peter said, "Lord, are You addressing this parable to us, or to everyone else as well?" 42 And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time? 43 Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. 44 Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

Who is the faithful and sensible steward? He is the one who

1. Stayed dressed for action
2. Kept his lamps burning
3. Was found striving for the reward
4. Expecting the unexpected
5. He who was ready!

45 But if that slave says in his heart, 'My master will be a long time in coming,' and begins to beat the slaves, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk; 46 the master of that slave 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 assign him a place with the unbelievers. 47 And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, 48 but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few.

There are really only two groups of servants described by Jesus here.

1 Those who are ready

2 Those who are not ready

You are either ready or not ready. There is no middle ground, and we really have NO excuses.

Conclusion:

v48b From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.