

LUKE I Being Ready For the King

Text: Luke 12:35-48

Be Watchful, Faithful and Ready

1. **The Wreck of the Costa Concordia cruise ship—not in a storm but in a current**
 - a. An investigation discovered: 1) The Captain was not at the helm
 - 2) He had secretly brought a woman on board who was not his wife
 - 3) Instead of tending to his duties he was wining & dining with this woman at a bar below deck.
2. **The ship was a beautiful sight to see from the coast at night w/ all the lights**
 - a. And the Captain had ordered the ship to swing closer to the shoreline than was safe.
 - b. The reckless order and ocean currents caused the ship to drift onto the rocks and wreck
3. **Drift is a Nautical Term used by the Hebrew writer regarding faith...**

“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.” (Hebrews 2:1)

 - a. Paul Talks About Those Who Had Shipwrecked their faith...
 - b. But how can this happen?—letting your life drift away from the Lord, off Course into rocks
 - c. Like Driving Long Distance and Losing Focus, Getting Tired, falling Asleep at the Wheel
4. **Jesus gives three parables with three warnings:**
 - BE WATCHFUL—because the time of His return is *UNKNOWN*
 - BE FAITHFUL—because the time of His return will be *UNEXPECTED*
 - BE READY— because He can appear, or our life can end at *ANYTIME*

I. BE WATCHFUL (v.35-40) because the time of His return is UNKNOWN

A. BEING WATCHFUL (v.35-38)

1. Have Your Waist Girded...

- a) in the ancient middle east they wore flowing robes that would tangle and trip them during work or during battle unless they girded them around the waist.
- b) “Roll Up Your Sleeves”, or “get your work boots on” – Also: Be On Standby Alert.
- c) We do this Spiritually w/ the Armor of God on and Our Mind Alert (**1 Peter 1:13**)

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

- d) ESV: “preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded,
- e) NIV: “with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.”

2. Have Your Lamps Burning...

- a) The image of lamps burning adds to the sense of watchfulness.
- b) Meaning: Even in the dark hours of the night you must be ready.
- c) (*Ps 119:105*) “*Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*”

3. Keep the Flame of Faith Burning Bright at All Times—Don’t let it flicker out

- a) Jesus will return at any time and our life may end at anytime
- b) Be Watching and Ready or else the door will be shut and we will be left outside

B. BEING ALERT (v.39-40)

1. You will not get a letter from thieves to inform you when they will arrive.
2. This is the Hour You Do Not Expect — like a Thief in the Night.
3. Since Most People are Not Be Ready When a Thief Arrives,
Most will not be ready when Jesus arrives...
4. No one knows that time except God Himself, not even the angels know

C. BEING AWARE...

1. **To Stay WATCHFUL, ALERT, and AWARE So We Will Be Ready!**
 - a) Like in the days of Noah... they were eating and drinking, marrying and given in marriage and they did not know until the floods rose
 - b) Like in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, when fire & brimstone rained down
 - c) Like Lot's Wife... who was warned NOT to look back, but she did anyway and was VAPORIZED into a pillar of salt
 - d) Like the Fall of Babylon: They were drinking and partying and using the golden vessels of the Temple to Drink their wine to praise false idols of Babylon
 - e) Like King Nebuchadnezzar who stood on his balcony and boasted how he had build Babylon for his own glory (Daniel 4:30-33)
 - f) Like Herod Agrippa who killed James the brother of John with the Sword — when he stood in front of the people arrayed in a robe of silver and white “And the people kept shouting, “The voice of a god and not of a man!”, and an Angel of God struck him down for not giving the glory to God! (Ac. 12:22)
2. **Over and Over the Scriptures Warn Us to Be Alert and Aware**
 - a) **THE SPIRIT WARNS US (1 Timothy 4:1)**
 - b) **PETER**: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, **(2 Pet 3:3)** Skeptics scoffing at the promises of God and the promise of judgement
 - c) **PAUL WARNED US (2 Timothy 3:1-4)**
 - (1) The First Characteristic of Godlessness is being Centered on SELF
 - (2) Everything Else Flows From the Self-Centered Life
 - d) **JUDE WARNS US (Jude 5-7; Jude 16-21)**
 - e) **JOHN WARNS US (1 John 2:18-19, 22-23)**
 - f) **JESUS WARNS US (Matthew 24:4-13; 24:36-39)**

II. BE FAITHFUL (v.41-48) because the time of His return will be UNEXPECTED

A. WISE AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS (v.41-44)

1. (v.43) Notice the word Jesus uses here... DOING.
2. There's a time for Learning, for Feeling, for Talking,
But Some are STUCK here and can't seem to move forward
—but what about DOING
3. The Wise and Faithful Servants will be DOING THE WILL of the master

B. UNWISE AND UNFAITHFUL SERVANTS (v.45-46)

1. This Unwise Servant Made Two Mistakes...

The FIRST was thinking—‘I Will Do What I Want While My Master is Away’

- a) Sometimes We Compartmentalize Our Faith... with Our Regular Life, our Work Life, our Family Life... —And on Sunday We Have our Faith Life.
- b) The Rest of the Time We Do What We Want
- c) God Doesn't Compartmentalize Us—He Looks at the Heart

2. SECOND Mistake was thinking—‘I Have Plenty of Time to Put Things Right Before My Master Returns.’

- a) I Can Straighten My Life Out Later...
- b) But For Now I Will do What I Want... I Will Indulge Myself

3. So he says in his heart, “My master is delaying his coming”:

- a) He mistreats other people, even other Christians
- b) He Wants to Enjoy the Pleasures of the World
- c) He is even getting drunk becoming intoxicated

4. Ex. I heard about a Preacher admitted to having an affair and cheated on his wife with another woman...

- a) but he later admitted something interesting...
- b) He said that he had been preaching but hadn't prayed in 5 years.
- c) He Drifted from the Lord, from the truth—not overnight—but over time...

C. THE JUDGEMENT (v.46-48)

1. He will cut him in two (NKJ) or ‘cut asunder’ (KJ) cut to pieces (ESV)

- a) It Means to Punish with Terrible Severity
- b) Jesus is using a Metaphor from Ancient Times to describe terrible punishment

2. What is the Point? Judgement Day is Coming!

- a) Be Watchful, Be Faithful Be Ready—Because when it happens...
it Will Be Sudden, Unexpected and Irreversible.

3. I Don't know why Jesus talks about lesser and greater punishment...

- a) I Know James warns of a stricter judgement for teachers (James 3:1)

4. But We Do Know This—Theres no such thing as absolute moral ignorance

- a) Our Own God-Given Conscious Convicts us of Right and Wrong
- b) And Our Willful Ignorance is Actually a part of our sin (Ryle)¹

5. As for the Judgement of God—

- a) God knows ALL Things, He Knows the Inner-Heart and He is Perfect!
- b) "God is too wise to make a mistake, and too good to do wrong." (L.S. White)***

6. But A Principle Here is Taught by Our Lord (v.48b)

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. (v.48b)

¹ Leon Morris, Luke, Tyndale Commentary NT

III. BE READY (v.40) because He can appear, or our life can end at ANYTIME

Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

A. WHAT WE DO HERE AND NOW HAS SIGNIFICANCE FOR ALL ETERNITY

1. Always be ready and keep your lamp lit and burning bright (v.35-36)
2. This is a Call to Action—Now is the Time to Get Serious About Your Faith!
3. So We Must Stay Spiritually Awake and Alert (Romans 13:11–14)

W/ God, the smallest step in the right direction, can become the biggest step of your life!

B. WE WANT THE LORD TO FIND US READY...

1. Since no-one knows the day or hour of the Return of Christ –except God
 - a) and no-one knows the day or hour of our own death
 - b) then all life must be a constant preparation for that Day
2. Do You Want the Lord to Find You Arguing with your spouse?
 - a) Full of Envy and Strife... Constant Drama and Conflict...
 - b) Preoccupied and Distracted... Refusing to forgive... Refusing to Serve...?
3. The best way to be ready for that day is to be ready everyday (Lk 21:34–36)
By Staying Spiritually Alert & Earnest in our Faith
 - a) Earnest means: "To be Devoted / Steadfast / Intense Desire or Conviction."
4. Earnest in our Study of God's Word: "Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away." (Heb 2:1)
5. Earnest in Prayer: "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving" (Col. 4:2) –Devote in prayer, being watchful and thankful.
6. Earnest in Our Commitment—Be Intentional in Your Commitment to Christ

C. WE SERVE A WONDERFUL KING! (v.37) <

1. Notice who is serving who... There is a remarkable turn of events here
 - a) Do you Remember when Prodigal son came to his senses and returned, he knew he'd sinned and only wanted to be a servant, unworthy to be his son
 - b) But his father ran to him and embraced him, The son said, I have sinned, not worthy

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his

hand and sandals on *his* feet. ²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry;

²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' (Lk 15:22-23)

2. Jesus did not come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom
3. He left the glory of heaven and humbled Himself as a servant... Phi 2:5–8

CONCLUSION:

1. BE WATCHFUL—because the time of His return is *UNKNOWN*
2. BE FAITHFUL—because the time of His return will be *UNEXPECTED*
3. BE READY—because He can appear, or our life can end at ANYTIME²

The Best Way to be Ready for that day is to be ready everyday

² Black, M. C. (1995). *Luke* (Lk 12:35–48). College Press Pub.