

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: Being Prepared

Passage: Luke 12:35-48 (ESV)

Illustration:

Need: Jesus transitions his teaching from worrying about earthly possessions to being ready and faithful for His future return.

I. Stay ready (12:35)

- Having one's loins girded meant that he/she was ready for whatever activity or challenge lay ahead.
- In order to keep a lamp burning one would need to have already purchased enough oil to last (see Matt. 25:1-13)
- The ready servant is always....ready to represent and serve his master. He/she is always "on duty."

II. Keep watching (12:36-40)

- Jewish wedding feasts could go on for a full week and no one was certain when the master of their house would return.
- But this Master would do the unthinkable and serve His servants who were watching and waiting for His return.
- "in the 2nd or 3rd watch" - a span from 9PM-6AM; it will be dark and you will be weary.
- The master's return will be as surprising as a thief so constant vigilance is a must. Don't get distracted.

III. Remain faithful (12:41-48)

- Broad faithfulness = representing Jesus in our homes, churches, communities, neighborhoods, etc.
- Narrow faithfulness = representing Jesus according to how a believer has been specifically gifted.
- Jesus promises to reward faithful servants upon His future return.
- Unfaithful servants, however, will suffer subjective losses:
 - The blatantly disobedient prove their unbelief and are rejected as such.
 - The believer who knew to be faithful but just didn't will experience severe loss of reward (1 Cor. 3:12-15)
 - The believer who didn't know to be faithful will also not receive the reward he or she could have experienced.

IV. Personal Application

- For what are you most ready?
- How much of your time is spent considering the "any moment" return of Jesus?
- How's your faithfulness in representing Jesus both broadly and narrowly?