

Sunday, March 3, 2024 | The Road to Redemption

Week 15 | Luke 12:35-48 | "Ready & Waiting"

Last week, Pastor Bob unpacked part two of our discussion of treasures. Earthly treasures never satisfy while heavenly treasures always satisfy. Prizing earthly treasures makes one woefully poor in this life and the next, while prizing heavenly treasures makes us wealthy souls in this life and the next. Being overly fixated on earthly treasures makes us anxious and distrust the Lord. In contrast, if we're overly fixated on heavenly treasures, we're more composed; we trust the Lord more. Indeed, wherever our heart is, there will also be our treasure, so depending on whether our treasure is on earth or in heaven, it will have profound implications for the quality of our lives.

Usually, I begin with an introduction to the day's topic, followed by an anecdote that gets us into the proper frame of mind. But, considering we'll be talking about the *second coming of Christ*, an event so momentous that it defines comparison, simply introducing the topic should be sufficient to gain everyone's attention.

Jesus is coming back. When this occurs, the King of Kings will separate the wheat from the tares, the sheep from the goats, and the faithful and the unfaithful. And then, every person who has ever lived, from the first to last, will be called to give an account. Once that great trial is over, the believer will take their place in never-ending tranquility, but the unbeliever will take their place in unending misery. Thus, for the Christian, the second coming is something to *eagerly anticipate*, whereas for the non-Christian, it is something to *anxiously dread*.

What sort of person are you? Are you the sort that's ready and waiting for Christ's return? Or are you the unprepared sort, thinking he'll delay?

I want you to notice *three* things:

i. **The Coming of the Master**

READ: Luke 12:35-40 (ESV)

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.

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!

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.”

Jesus uses **three images** to illustrate what it looks like to be ready:

- a. “**dressed for action**” – You are prepared to go. You have your shoes on, and you're watching the door.
- b. “**lamps burning**” – You left the light on. The house isn't dark. Nothing is shut down.
- c. “**men who are waiting for their master to come home from a wedding feast**” – You know your master is coming. He's only gone to a wedding. And you “open the door to him at once when he **comes** and knocks” (e.g., Opening the door when Emory comes with the groceries).

Quick sidebar: This is not an admonition for unending work. Even Jesus slept; even he withdrew himself away from the crowds. There is a time for work and time for rest. Jesus' point is that he wants his followers to get their houses in order. He wants us to uproot any sin that's in our life. He wants us to devote ourselves to his will and serve him with our time, talents, and treasures. In this way, though we might literally be asleep when he comes back, spiritually, you'll be awake and ready to receive the coming Messiah. Why? Because you've put your house in order.

Jesus uses **one image** to illustrate what he'll be like when he comes:

“**the thief**” – Jesus uses a bad example to illustrate a good principle. Like a thief, the Lord will come when you least expect it. Thus, since you cannot know when he's coming, it is best to always be ready for his coming.

ii. **The Blessing of the Faithful**

The blessing is *two-fold*: a grand *celebration* and a grand *possession*.

Jesus already talked about how they will be blessed if the good servant is awake and ready when he comes back. In vs. 37-38, he said, “**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. If he **comes** in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, **blessed** are those servants!” **The master of the house serves the servants!** This would never happen in real life. Should we be ready when Christ comes again,

we'll experience a dinner party the likes of which have never been seen. And this celebration is what the Bible calls the 'Marriage Supper of the Lamb' (cf. Rev. 19:6-9).

When the Lord returns and finds us awake and ready, we'll not only have a grand celebration but we'll also be given a grand possession.

READ: Luke 12:41-44 (ESV)

⁴¹ Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?" 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? 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."

For the servant who is awake and ready, who greets their master when he comes, they'll be given possession of all of their master's possessions. All that God has will be given to those not caught off guard at Christ's return. This is a re-installment of humanity's place in the hierarchy of creation. We'll reclaim what was lost in the garden. We'll ascend to our rightful place as image-bearers of God, tending to his creation. **In essence, though servants of the kingdom, we'll be given the keys to the kingdom (cf. Rev. 21-22).** "Life after Jesus' return will not be passive, but will involve active service."¹

iii. **The Beating of the Faithless**

READ: Luke 12:45-48 (ESV)

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."

Apathy invites God's wrath; it invites us to think we can live however we want because the "master is delayed in coming." Such a person feels there's time for selfish pursuits rather than

¹ Bock, Darrell L., *Luke 9:51-24:53*, The Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, (Grand Rapids, MI; Baker Academic, 1996), p. 1180.

selfless service. They abuse their power by "beat[ing] the male and female servants." They "eat, drink, and get drunk," thinking life is meant to be spent on frivolous pursuits. Only an **unbeliever** would be so foolish.

And what will the unbeliever earn for their selfishness, corruption, and apathy? Utter rejection. They'll be "cut...in pieces and put...with the unfaithful." Just because you're religious and go to church and know a little about the Bible does not make you a believer. Those who are saved and those who only appear to be saved are distinguished by how they love. They're either selfless or selfish. They either love others as Christ loved the world, or they love themselves. And the person who "knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a **severe beating.**" This ought to shake all of us to our core. To know Christ but not be a follower of Christ earns only a "severe beating."

There is a famous quote in the world of comics: "With great power comes great responsibility." Ever wonder where that came from? Well, it comes from this passage. Jesus said, "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." The more you have, the more God and others will expect of you. Thus, the application in our context is that the person who knows *a lot* of the Bible and claims to be a follower of Jesus but does not live according to Scripture and does not live like a follower of the Son of God will earn a **severe judgment**. On the other hand, the one who sins and doesn't know better will earn themselves a **lesser judgment**.

Now, one might be tempted to think that it would be better to not know anything about God than to know something but not be a follower of God. That's *nonsense*. Do not miss that *both* the *knowledgeable* and *unknowledgeable* earned a beating. Yes, on judgment day, there will be some who will be *worse* off than others. But to earn a lesser judgment than someone like Hitler is a small consolation when you'll still be punished for all eternity.

Thus, Jesus' point in comparing an *extreme* punishment to a *lesser* one is to warn those who *think* they're saved but have no good works to show for it. Make no mistake, such a person proves by their faithless lifestyle that their profession of faith meant *nothing*. After all, we are saved by faith alone, not a profession of faith. A profession of faith that does not include the good works of faith is not a saving faith. Faith without works is dead. And only a "severe beating" awaits those who possess a death faith.

So, what's the takeaway?

Readiness distinguishes the Christian from the "Christian."

Sinfulness distinguishes the "Christian" from the Christian.

READ: Revelation 19:6-9 (ESV)

⁶Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. ⁹And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

We have a responsibility to make ourselves ready.

And so, I will, and with the same question, I began this sermon with: What sort of person are you? Are you the sort that's ready and waiting? Or are you the unprepared sort, hoping you have more time?

Video Description:

The Road to Redemption | Week 15 | "Ready & Waiting" (Luke 12:35-48)

SPEAKER: Ben Hyrne, Pastor

Usually, I begin with an introduction to the day's topic, followed by an anecdote that gets us into the proper frame of mind. But, considering we'll be talking about the *second coming of Christ*, an event so momentous that it defines comparison, simply introducing the topic should be sufficient to gain everyone's attention.

Jesus is coming back. When this occurs, the King of Kings will separate the wheat from the tares, the sheep from the goats, and the faithful and the unfaithful. And then, every person who has ever lived, from the first to last, will be called to give an account. Once that great trial is over, the believer will take their place in never-ending tranquility, but the unbeliever will take their place in unending misery. Thus, for the Christian, the second coming is something to *eagerly anticipate*, whereas for the non-Christian, it is something to *anxiously dread*.

What sort of person are you? Are you the sort that's ready and waiting for Christ's return? Or are you the unprepared sort, thinking he'll delay?

Pastor's manuscript can be found here:

Grace Pointe Baptist Church

12029 Eastern Ave.

Baltimore, MD 21220

Contact: info@GracePointeLife.com

Website: <https://www.gracepointelife.com>

Give here: <https://www.gracepointelife.com/give/>

Podcast Details:

Season 38 | 14