

## HE'S COMING BACK, ARE YOU READY?

Luke 12:35-48

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** There are some people who don't ever think about the future, just what's going on today. Then there are those who constantly worry and fret about how they are going to "make ends meet" and "what if this or that might happen." Some are not concerned and some are overly concerned about the future. Jesus taught that one should not be anxious about tomorrow, but He didn't teach that one should ignore tomorrow or the future. Christians should often think about the fact that Jesus is coming back and every person will stand before Him to give an account. Christians should be ready for the Lord's return of all people.

### I. CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE READY FOR THE LORD'S RETURN (12:35-40)

1. Jesus told four parables about being ready for the unexpected.

- If a person planned to run or work in Jesus' day, he would tuck his robe into a sash around his waist so that it wouldn't interfere with his movements and therefore he was "dressed in readiness" or his "loins were girded.."
- There was not electricity in Jesus' day, no street lights, no night lights to help find one's way in the dark, so one would keep an oil light burning if there would be a need to be up at night and especially if a guest was expected to come by.
- In Jesus' day weddings were a great thing and celebration would last for days, often a week or more and therefore the servants would need to be ready when they heard the bridegroom arrive to open the door for him but no one knew exactly when he would arrive.
- No one knew when a thief might break in one's house in the middle of the night but if the time was known the owner would be alert, awake and waiting.
- The only reason Jesus has delayed His return and judgment is His great patience as He waits for more to come to believe in Him in repentance.
- Jesus will indeed come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat and the earth and its works will be burned up.
  - What sort of a person should YOU be as this is going to surely happen?
  - How can a person be ready for Jesus' coming?

2. To be ready for Jesus' coming, He must be one's Master.

- Jesus is indeed Lord of all but for those who are rightly related to Him, they will be blessed while others will face His punishment.
- Some say that Jesus is their Savior, but He's not their Lord - YET.
  - The only people ready for Jesus' return are those who DAILY seek to bring every part of their lives under His Lordship.
- Those who are ready for Jesus' return seek to follow Him as their Lord.

3. To be ready for Jesus' coming, one must be His servant.

- Servants live to obey the commands and to do the bidding of their Master.
- Being a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ is the first and most important way of thinking.

- "...*You are not your own, for you have been bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body...*" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

- Christians should also seek out an area of service in line with their spiritual gifts as God has given each believer a gift to be used in serving Him.
- Believers are to seek to serve the Lord Jesus till He comes and not sit on some hill waiting for His return.

4. To be ready for Jesus' coming, one must live in expectation of His return.

- If a person is expecting a guest, an important guest, he/she lives differently than if not expecting anyone at all. Things are straightened up, cleaned up, put in order, etc.
- If YOU were expecting someone very important, what would you do differently than you are doing now?
- What if Christians acted like pets do when they hear their owner coming close to the door? So Christians should also be ready and anxious for the Lord's return.

## **II. CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE READY FOR THE LORD'S RETURN BECAUSE HE WILL JUDGE THEM (12:41-48)**

1. Some will be rewarded because they knew about His coming and lived as faithful and sensible stewards.

- **12:42-44**

- Believers who have been put in charge of other believers (pastors, teachers, etc.) and used them for their own purposes will be judged but those who were faithful and sensible to others will receive a reward.
- Jesus called these faithful servants "blessed" and that He will put them in charge of even more.
- Jesus will give each believer who has served Him faithfully while on earth will be given meaningful responsibilities throughout eternity.

2. Some will be punished because they ignored the Lord's coming and abused those under their charge.

- They used their God-given position for their own pleasure and advantage, thus a fatal mistake.
- The Lord will punish the unfaithful.
  - Those who teach false doctrine.
  - Those who used religion to promote their own greed and immorality.
- If one knows about the things of God and doesn't repent of his/her selfishness and abusiveness toward others woe to that person when the Lord Jesus comes.

3. Some will be punished severely because they knew about the Lord's coming but did not get ready.

- **12:47**

- There will be some who knew the Lord's will but did not get ready or act in accordance with it.
  - Many have been involved in religious matters and know the truth but never acted on it.
  - "Someday I'll follow Christ and serve Him, but right now I've got this or that I want to do."
- Sin against greater light means greater punishment.

4. Some will be punished less severely because they did not know about the Lord's coming or lived in light of it. (**12:48a**)

- There are those who do not know the Lord Jesus and they will be judged less severely.
  - They WILL be judged for ignorance of God's law is no excuse for not obeying it because every person is responsible to know it.
  - "Ignorance is part of man's sin..."
- There is ample evidence in the creation and one's conscience to know that there is God.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus sums it all up when He said: ***"...And from everyone who has been given much shall much be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more..."***
  - Those who have been given the most light have the most responsibility and will be judged the most severely.
  - There will be levels of punishment in hell.
2. Every person needs to answer the question, "What kind of mentality do I have about spiritual things?"
  - Some live just for today only with no regard for the Lord's return and the fact that there will be an accounting of one's life.
  - Some try to put out of their minds the thought about Jesus coming back.
3. Believers should live each day with an eye on that future day when ***"...the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God..."***
4. How blessed one will be if he/she is ready when the Lord does come back.