
'How to Be Ready for Jesus' Return'

Know the Real Jesus

Luke 12:35-48 ESV

“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.”

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. 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.

A. Practice the patterns of a **faithful** & **wise** steward:

1. Be properly **dressed** & **enlightened**!

³⁵Stay **dressed** for action and keep your **lamps** burning...

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” **Psalm 119:105**

“Jesus spoke... I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” **John 8:12**

2. Be eagerly **anticipating** His arrival.

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.

3. Be **awake & alert!**

³⁷Blessed 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. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them **awake**, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But 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. ⁴⁰You also **must be ready**, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

4. Be **servicing** consistently and faithfully.

⁴¹Peter said: Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all? ⁴²And 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? ⁴³Blessed is that servant whom his master will **find so doing** when he comes. ⁴⁴Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions... ^{48b}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.

B. **Recognize** patterns of an unfaithful/**foolish** steward:

1. Will be self-**deceived** about Jesus' 2nd coming.

⁴⁵But if that servant **says to himself**, 'My master is delayed in coming...

2. Will be an **abuser** of people and **alcohol**. v45b-46a

^{45b}...and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, ⁴⁶the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know...

3. Will be held **accountable** & disciplined accordingly.

^{46b}...and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. ⁴⁷And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. ⁴⁸But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. **vs 46b-48a**

Many who oversee are not who they say they are...

¹⁵Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ¹⁶By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?... ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown

into the fire. ²⁰Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. ²¹Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' ²³Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'
Matthew 7:15-16, 18-23

A final Word of Encouragement

¹Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ²for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶So then, let us not be like others, who

who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. ¹¹**Therefore encourage one another and build each other up**, just as in fact you are doing."

Thessalonians 5:1-11