

Warnings to be Ready for the Master's Return Luke 12:35-53

The Faithful Servant

³⁵ "Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; ³⁶ and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. ³⁷ Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them. ³⁸ And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants. ³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." ⁴¹ Then Peter said to Him, "Lord, do You speak this parable *only* to us, or to all *people*?" ⁴² And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* master will make ruler over his household, to give *them* *their* portion of food in due season? ⁴³ Blessed *is* that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁴ Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.

The Wicked Servant

⁴⁵ But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, ⁴⁶ the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the unbelievers. ⁴⁷ And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare *himself* or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*. ⁴⁸ But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. 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. ⁴⁹ "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!

Discern the Time

⁵⁴ Then He also said to the multitudes, "Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west, immediately you say, 'A shower is coming'; and so it is. ⁵⁵ And when *you see* the south wind blow, you say, 'There will be hot weather'; and there is. ⁵⁶ Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how *is it* you do not discern this time?

Questions:

1. What is the major difference between the watchful servants here in vs 35-40 and the rich fool in Luke 12:16-21?
2. What should faithful/watchful servants do to be actively alert and ready for their Master's return even in the long hours of the night?
3. If the servants proved fully alert on the Master's return, how would he generously thank them? (vs 37) How true is this in the real world? How is Jesus different than most earthly masters?
4. Do you think it is easy to wait for the Lord's second coming? Why or why not? Why is the coming of Jesus likened to a thief breaking into a house?
5. Why do you think Peter asked the question he did in vs 41? How did he think the parable applied only to "us"? Was he thinking Jesus had a special position of honor for him?
6. Vs 42-43 If a Master appointed a faithful steward over his household and went away, what would he require of that steward when he returned?
7. Vs 45-46 What mistake might that steward placed over his master's household make while the master was away? How would this servant who had been given a higher position be dealt with?
8. From vs 47-48 is Jesus saying it is better to not know the Master's will and be beaten with only a few stripes? What is the lesson we should learn from the unfaithful servant?
9. Why does Jesus say He came to earth in vs. 51? (Compare this "fire" with Malachi 3:1-4 the refiner's fire that purges and cleanses; also 2 Thess 1:8-9 the fire that will separate the righteous and wicked)
10. What was the "baptism" Jesus knew he must be immersed with which He was distressed over? vs 50
11. If the Jews could interpret the clouds to know if bad weather was coming, what were they not willing to see?