



## 6: *Expecting His Return* (Luke 12:35-48)

The early Church did more than just *appreciate the birth of Jesus* (1st coming), they *anticipated the return of Jesus* (2nd coming).

Today we get a glimpse into what will happen when the Master returns. Will YOU be ready?

### beourguest

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### teachingnotes

**ADVENT**, derived from the Latin word **adventus** meaning “**coming**” or “**arrival**.” Early Christians who used *advent* to

1. *appreciate* the 1st coming of Jesus - His birth and

2. *anticipate* the 2nd coming of Jesus - His return

❓ As you *anticipate* the return of Jesus, how are you using your Time, Talents, & Treasure to impact others for eternity?

#### ☀️ R.C. Sproul

*We don't know the appointed day or hour of his return, but we know two things with certainty. One, that he is coming, and two, that his coming is closer today than it was yesterday. With each passing moment, human history moves closer to the return of Jesus.*

#### The Day Jesus Returns

**2 Thessalonians 1:6-10** (NIV) God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen **when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven** in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might **on the day he comes** to be glorified in **his holy people** and to be marveled at among all **those who have believed**. This includes you, because **you believed** our testimony to you.

#### **BIG TRUTH: The Master returns to bless His servants...and doom the Disobedient**

#### Servants Awaiting The Master

**Luke 12:35-37** (NIV) Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like **servants waiting for their master to return** from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those **servants whose master finds them watching when he comes**. Truly I tell you, He will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.

The focus of this story is NOT on the wedding, but the **return** of the **Master**. The master had gone to the wedding of another and since wedding celebrations could last for seven days, the exact time of the master's return was not certain.

*What WAS certain was that he WOULD return.* As that was the case the servants were to be **dressed and ready for service**. This phrase comes from the literal rendering of the Greek to “to gird up the loins” - an idiom like we might say, 'be sitting on go'. This is why most English translations (ESV, NASB, NIV) write it this way: **be dressed ready for service**.<sup>1</sup>

- The Jewish audience knew of tucking the long outer garment under a belt to they can move quickly, just as the Jewish people were told to be prepared to leave Egypt in the middle of the night (Exodus 12:11).

Those who **keep the lamps burning** are prepared - on the lookout - expecting the **master to return**. And when he *DOES* return, these servants aren't caught off guard. They are **ready for service** and keeping the **lamps burning**.

**He will dress himself to serve** is strange language. It's the servant's job to serve the master, not the other way around.

<sup>1</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 683.

## Master Returns At Unexpected Time

**Luke 12:38-40** (NIV) It will be good for those servants whose **master finds them ready**, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at **what hour the thief was coming**, he would not have let his house be broken into. **You also must be ready**, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

The Master *WILL return*...expecting His servants to be doing what He has commanded. His return will be unexpected by most.

## The Master Who Serves His Servants

**Luke 12:37** It will be good for those **servants whose master finds them watching when he comes**. Truly I tell you, **He will dress himself to serve**, will have them recline at the table and **will come and wait on them**.

On the last night before His death, Jesus - the Master, served His servants as He washed their feet. So too, in the distant future, the KING of kings will still **SERVE His servants!** What an incredible day, what a day of joy & humility that will be!

When **The Master returns to bless His servants**...

## What a Great Question!

**Luke 12:41** (NIV) Peter asked, "Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?"

**What a GREAT question!** This is the question the contemporary audience should be asking as well! Is this *intended for just the 1st century disciples of Jesus within earshot*, or is it meant for anyone who hears what He says? The answer is ultimately found in vs. 47-48 - as we'll see in a moment.

## Blessing His Servants

**Luke 12:42-44** (NIV) The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? It will be **good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns**. Truly I tell you, **he will put him in charge of all his possessions**."

The servants who have been doing what the Master commanded are given more responsibility when He returns.

**Did you know you will have responsibilities that the Lord will give you?** The good servant will be given more responsibilities in the Kingdom.

## Dooming the Disobedient

**Luke 12:45-46** (NIV) But suppose the servant says to himself, "My master is taking a long time in coming," and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. **The master** of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. **He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers**."

This 'servant' begins to act like he is the master. He acts as though the master is not returning and he is now in charge. He treats others poorly but makes sure to satisfy his own desires - including the sinful ones.

⚠ Beware those who claim to follow Jesus, yet refuse to live like they will be accountable to the Master!

The **Master** cutting the disobedient **to pieces** and **assigning him/her to a place with unbelievers** means *ETERNAL DOOM!*

## **BIG TRUTH: The Master returns to bless His servants...and doom the Disobedient**

## Different Levels of Judgment

**Luke 12:47-48a** (NIV) The **servant who knows the master's will** and does not get ready or **does not do what the master wants** will be beaten with many blows. But the **one who does not know** and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows.

Both end up in a place of **punishment** - one experience harsher punishment than the other - one experiences **many blows** versus **few blows**.

**Who experiences the most punishment?** Those who *knew* what the Master wanted, but were *NOT Expecting His Return*.

❓ **If Jesus returned today**, would I be **Excited** or **Ashamed**?

**Luke 12:48b** (NIV) From everyone who has been given much, **much will be demanded**; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

❓ **What am I DOING with what I've been GIVEN?**

## **The Master returns to bless His servants...and doom the Disobedient**



▶ **Give Jesus your LIFE.** Surrender your sin & seek His forgiveness!

▶ **Give Jesus your BEST.** Seek Him! Get in the Scripture. Live expecting His return! Lay your head on the pillow with this thought - I Gave Jesus my BEST today!

### **heretoserveyou**

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

\* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!

\* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Steve & Debbie Bass** (850-673-7952), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Tim & Joni Hughey** (850-464-1156), **Rob & Rebecca Leatherberry** (229-232-1087), or **Mark & Dot Mancil** (850-253-5405).

## **discussionquestions**

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. "Whether He Returns BEFORE you die OR you DIE before He returns...you will stand before the Master.  
Answer this: ***If Jesus returned today, would I be Excited or Ashamed?*** Explain.
2. **Read Luke 12:35-44.** Name a couple of ways that the master will bless His servants when He returns.
3. **Read Luke 12:45-48.** What is the warning to the 'servant' who isn't expecting the Master's return? Why should this cause a PAUSE to many who claim to be Christians?
4. "Good works don't save us, but they demonstrate who really is saved." Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
5. What have YOU been entrusted with? What are you *DOING* with what you've been *GIVEN*?
6. Share any '**aha**' moments in today's study - what you learned or how you were challenged. What does God want YOU to do with what we studied today?
7. Ask how you can pray for one another. Then do it!