

READY OR NOT HERE HE COMES | LUKE 12:35-59 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 2/22/26

I. Readiness for the Master (35-40) | II. Responsibility of the Steward (41-48) | III. Response to the Messiah (49-59)

INTRO: In this powerful section of Scripture, Jesus moves from teaching about Worry and Wealth to a **Warnings** about Watchfulness and Readiness. – The tone shifts from **Comfort to Confrontation**, as Jesus alludes to **His Second Coming**. – The lessons are spoken both to His disciples and the multitudes to be **Faithfully Prepared**. – I've entitled this sermon: **READY OR NOT HERE HE COMES...***

I. READINESS FOR THE MASTER (12:35–40) – Jesus had just told His disciples of **His Father's Good Pleasure to give them the kingdom** (vv. 22-34). But now He gives a *call to active expectation* **READ:**

A. Prepared Servants (35–36) – His instruction included **familiar terms** for the Jewish mindset (v.35) – *“waists girded,” “lamps burning”* – **It was a direct call for READINESS!** – In biblical times, **Girding the waist** meant **PREPARING** for action; **Burning lamps** symbolized **WATCHFULLNESS!**

1. To illustrate that Readiness is **NOT Passive Waiting**, Jesus presents the **Parable of the Expectant Servant** (v.36-38), emphasizing the mindset of faithful servants. – **They were to wait expectantly** *“for their master's return from a wedding.”*

2. **Jewish weddings were held at night**, and the Bridegroom's Servants were instructed not only to **be Waiting...** but to **be Watching!** – Not **complacent sitting around** but **actively looking around!** – *The servants who wait and watch faithfully are to be recipients of a...*

B. Promised Surprise (37–38) – *“Blessed are those servants”* – Jesus mentions that such servants would be **blessed in Two Ways** (v.37):

1. **First**, **because they were faithful to their master's will!** – Their faithfulness actually **blessed their master** as he brought his new bride home to abundant preparations! (*Blessings flow from obedience!*)

2. **Secondly**, the blessing of an **Unexpected Surprise** is **PROMISED** to those who were watching: *“He will gird Himself and serve them!”* – **This is a Shocking Reversal... The Master serves the servants!** – In Jewish weddings the bride was to be **treated as a Queen**, and the groom as a King, but here **Jesus Christ our KING** emphasizes that **He will minister to every faithful servant at His return!**

- This teaches us that **Christ honors faithful watchfulness** with **intimate fellowship**. – **Spurgeon** said, *“It is not how much we do, but how faithfully we do it, that wins the Master's smile!”*

3. **Jesus also warned that the master could come at ANY TIME! (v.38)** – Jews and Romans **adhered to dividing their Night Watches** into four parts: 1) **6pm-9pm** (Lam 2:19); 2) the **“second” 9pm-12pm** (Judg 7:19); 3) the **“third” 12am-3am** (Mark 13:35); and 4) the **“fourth” was 3am-6am** (Matt 14:25).

- **Even in the darkest hours of night, vigilance must continue!** – **Delayed return does not cancel promised return!** – He is coming back, therefore the need for...

C. Personal Urgency (39–40) – To further emphasize His point, **Jesus teaches the Parable of the Homeowner and the Thief** (v.39). – If a homeowner **WAS AWARE** that house was going to be **robbed**, he would **WATCH**, so as **NOT to allow it!** *i.e., Don't Be Caught OFF GUARD!* – The application then is simple (v.40), **“YOU ALSO BE READY!** – In the **Revelation**, **Jesus uses the same terminology of Himself:** *“Behold, I come AS A THIEF, blessed is he who WATCHES, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”* (Rev 16:15) – The timing is hidden, but the certainty is guaranteed! **Are You Ready?**

II. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STEWARD (12:41–48) – **READ:** *An inquisitive Peter asks his Master, to whom is this parable addressed? (v.41)* – Jesus indirectly responds to his question with a teaching about **STEWARDSHIP**, which is to be applied to ALL believers!

A. Assigned Stewardship (41–44) – A **STEWARD** (*oikonomos*) is one who is entrusted with the affairs of another, lit. *a house minister/worker*. – Scripture teaches that, It is required in stewards that one be found faithful, (1 Cor 4:2). – They are to be Faithful in *“what the Master entrusts to them.”* i.e., *his entire household (v.42)*.

1. Such Management was to be Exercised with WISDOM and DILIGENCE in ensuring everyone receives their designated portion of food or rations. – It was a **Guardianship, NOT Ownership!**
2. **Faithful Stewardship will be Rewarded (v.43-44)** – Once again, the mention of **Being Blessed** for **FAITHFUL MANAGEMENT**. – **I see two things here:** 1) The Master NOTICES faithfulness! and 2) The Master PROMOTES the SERVANT with more responsibility!

- Before I move on, I want to encourage you to **Be diligent in what God has entrusted to you.** (Heb 6:10) For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.
- Sadly, not all those entrusted with a stewardship are found faithful. *Jesus also mentions...*

B. Abused Stewardship (45–46a) – A contrast of the **Faithful Servant** and the **Foolish Servant!** – **The Foolish Servant has a HEART ISSUE**, which is evident by his cruel behavior – *“my master is delaying,” “begins to beat... eat and drink!” (v.45)*: Because he is **Forgetful**, he becomes **Wasteful** which leads to **Spiritual Blindness!** (2 Pet 1:9) For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

- **The WARNING** then given to **SUCH servants (v.46b)**, that *the Master will come on a day and hour when the wicked servant is NOT LOOKING for him.* (Lit. Unaware!) *What happens next is...*

C. Accountable Stewardship (46b–48) – *The master will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.* These are **serious words** which speaks of **Judgment!** – A time is coming when Our Master Jesus Christ will Separate the Faithful Servants from the Unfaithful Servants (46b).

1. **Ready or Not, One Day the Master will come! (47-48a)** – When the master returns, **punishment will fit the offense**—those who knew better but were unprepared will be judged more severely than those who did not know.

- **The Calvinistic view of this statement** interprets this to mean Eternal Judgment, or the **Final Damnation of Unbelievers**. – But the word for **Unbelievers {apistos}**, can also be translated as **unfaithful!** – But Context speaks to disciples about servant servants, who were either faithful or unfaithful. – Secondly, salvation on not based on works but faith (**Eph 2:8-10; 2 Tim 2:11-13**)
- **Those Servants who were FOUND Unfaithful will not be burned in hell but Lose Their Rewards that they could have gained:** (tt. Read 1 Cor 3:12-15) – Also (**Rom 14:10-12; 2 Cor 5:10**)

2. **Responsibility Summed Up (48b)** – *“To whom much is given, much is required.”* – **God holds people accountable based on what they have been given.** – Simply put: **Greater blessing brings...**

Greater Responsibility before God. – If we want to get this right, let's take **Tozer's Advice:** *"We should live as if Jesus were crucified yesterday, rose this morning, and is coming back this afternoon."* – A.W. Tozer

P/A – God has Entrusted each of us with Time, Truth, Talents, and Treasure. **Faithfulness is measured not by prominence but by obedience.** – Serve God, your family, church, and community as one who will give an account to the Master. – Stewardship today determines reward tomorrow!

- **The weight of accountability** now shifts from Stewardship to DECISION, revealing that *what truly matters is our...*

III. RESPONSE TO THE MESSIAH (12:49–59) – In this section, Jesus reveals **Three Essential Responses for every believer.** It begins with His...

A. Dividing Fire (49–53) – **READ:** Christ brings Purification and Unavoidable Division (v.49) – *"I came to send fire,"* – **Commentators** vary on the exact meaning of fire, but Context seems to fit best with **FIRE symbolizing Judgment and Purification.** – **His judgment** on the earth is for those have rejected Him as Messiah and Savior and put Him to death (2 Thess 1:7-8). – **His Desire...** *"how I wish it were already kindled,"* would benefit those who believed that the Father's Judgment fell on the Son, in their stead, for the Forgiveness of Sins and Salvation...

1. **He Faced a BAPTISM that Only He Could Face (v.50)** – *"a baptism which caused Him much distress until, it was accomplished"* – **This refers directly to His coming Suffering at the Cross** – Remember, Jesus was making His way to Jerusalem where it would all take place. – **But He Knew that The Cross preceded the Crown! (Luke 24:46-47)** *"Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."*

2. His Death would bring Life to so many, but it would also bring **Division on the Earth and Every Household** where a Believer is Found (v.51–53) – *"not peace but division," "father divided against son..."*

- **This is hard for some to understand.** The Gospel divides those who receive it from those who reject it. – Commitment to Christ divides even households.
- **Allegiance to Christ** is to supersede ALL earthly relationships. – **(Luke 14:26)** *"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother... he cannot be My disciple."* WHOA!
- **The Gospel message is not sentimental; it is supernatural and confrontational!**

P/A – As a believer in Christ, **Ask Him to help you Prioritize your loyalty to Christ above all else.** –

Jesus challenges the Multitudes re...

B. Discerning the Times (54–56) – **READ:** **Jesus was aware of their spiritual dullness by their lack of discernment.** – *"you hypocrites," "discern the face of the sky," "not discern this time"* They could interpret weather but missed the Messiah! – **Spiritual Dullness is more dangerous than intellectual ignorance,** (1 Cor 2:14) *"But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God."*

- **Spiritual discernment is more important than worldly insight.** – This is why we need God's Word and The Holy Spirit! – **To help us recognize God's work in the present age.** – **The stage is SET:** for World-dominating confederacies, for the Rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem, for a Political and Economic Leader to ARISE, for technology based systems to control the world!

- With all that said, we certainly must be aware that **The RAPTURE of the Church is near!** (1 Thess 4:15-18)

P/A – Jesus wants everyone to **discern this times** and be ready for His return! – Sadly, so many still Reject Jesus Christ as Lord.

The Final Response that Jesus is looking for is...

C. Decisive Repentance (57–59) – **READ: Jesus presents an Urgency to be reconciled to GOD BEFORE judgment falls (v.57)** – “*why do you not judge what is right?*” – **It’s a Clarion Call from Jesus for personal moral evaluation!** – Because READINESS begins with **honest Self-Assessment**, Jesus provides another mini-parable for them to contemplate...

1. The Scene (v.58) is of a person who is **GUILTY** of something and should correct it before he is brought before a judge – “*make every effort,*” “*lest he drag you to the judge*” – The application is simple: **Settle matters before FACING THE JUDGE!** – Because “*there are none righteous, no not one...*” (Psalm 14:1-3; Rom 3:10)... ***We are all GUILTY before GOD (Rom 3:19)*** –

- The exhortation is to **REPENT!** (*Acknowledge, Turn, and Bend you Knee in Humilitee!*)
- **Reconciliation with God, the Righteous Judge is URGENT, NOT Optional.**

2. The Debt (v.59) – Jesus confirms that **Full Payment is demanded** and there will be **No Escape until**, “*you have paid the very last mite*” – Judgment will be thorough and unavoidable! **A Delay in repentance increases consequences!**

- **Have you settled your account with God?** ***Don’t wait for the Courtroom when you can come to the Cross.***

CLOSING THOUGHTS: JESUS CALLS ALL to be **Ready** for His return, **Responsible** with His trust, and **Responsive** to His call — **Living faithfully NOW** because His return is near!

- **The lamps** are either burning or they are not... **The fire** is either refining or dividing... **The Judge** is either Savior now — or Judge later... **You must decide!**
- **Today is the Day to Prepare!** Because whether welcomed or resisted — **READY OR NOT HERE HE COMES!**