

ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR MASTER'S RETURN?

LUKE 12:35–59

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Introduction:

Parents/Grandparents Guided Personal Prayer Retreat—Saturday, September 5th, 9:00–11:00AM

Luke 12:31–34) Context

In a very comfortable society, focusing our thoughts on God's kingdom is very hard to do.

Luke 12:35–38)

35) Two pictures of being ready

36) Such feasts could last for days or even a week.

37) "Blessed": The master serves his servants!

38) Midnight to dawn.
"Blessed" again!

Luke 12:39–40)

39) A third picture of being ready

40) But we don't know when!

These pictures call us to serve Jesus with one eye on heaven and his return.

The master will evaluate us when he returns.

Q: How do we do this? How do we constantly watch and stay ready?

Luke 12:41–44)

41) Who are the “us” and who are the “all”?

42–43) Who is the blessed servant?

Key idea: To watch and wait for Christ’s coming we must be faithfully doing the duties he gave us.

Especially our leaders, but this section applies to all. All will be evaluated.

44) The honor of a greater role and more responsibility

[Luke 19:17]

Luke 12:45–46)

Luke 12:47–48)

Four kinds of people:

- the faithful will be honored
- the blatantly unfaithful show they are not believers
- some know the master’s will but are unfaithful
- some did not know the master’s will and are unfaithful

Will Christians be punished at the Judgment?

“severe beating” and “light beating”:

- varying punishments for unbelievers
- OR
- illustrating the principle: God expects more from those he gives more

There will be an accounting! Each of us will be called to account.

1 Corinthians 3:12–17) 3 groups:

- the faithful servants will be rewarded (3:14)
- those saved but focus on themselves will lose rewards (3:15)
- those who desecrate the temple are destroyed (3:16–17)

Motivations for being faithful with the resources God has given us:

(Hebrews 6:10)

Luke 12:49–53)

We must realize and prepare emotionally for family division/opposition.

We may need to sacrifice the blessings on earth for the blessings in heaven.

Luke 12:54–56)

It's decision time!

Luke 12:57–59)

Who is the accuser in this illustration?

Context!

Settle matters with God before he requires payment.

Conclusion:

This section of scripture addresses three groups:

- All believers: be ready for Christ's coming by serving his kingdom faithfully.
- Church leaders/teachers: be ready for Christ's coming by serving God's people faithfully, not lording it over them or living for yourselves.
- Unbelievers: Someone has to pay your sin debt. It's decision time!

Questions for meditation and discussion:

1. List some of the gifts/resources/opportunities God has given you. How can you use them to advance God's kingdom?
2. How **are** you using the gifts/resources/opportunities God has given you?
3. Read and discuss Hebrews 6:10.
4. Read and discuss Ephesians 2:10.
5. Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 3:12–15.
6. When it comes to growing spiritual maturity and future rewards, who has the greater challenge and harder situation: Christian prisoners in China or us in America?