

Dressed Ready for Service

Luke 12

35 “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, 36 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. 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. 38 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. 39 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. 40 You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

41 Peter asked, “Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?”

42 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? 43 It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. 44 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

45 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. 46 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.

1. Right Now is the Time to Serve the Lord

“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.”

Right Now is the Time to Serve...

Just like in life there are good times to do certain things...

When your a Baby - that's a good time for a bottle and a diaper...

When your a Child - that's a good time to do Childish Things...

When your a Teenager - that's a good time to grow in Strength...

When your a Young Adult - that's a good time to prepare yourself for Adulthood...

When your an Adult - that's a good time to work hard and prepare for when your old...

When your Old - that's a good time to Retire...

Travel the World...

Send selfies to your Children and Grandchildren of yourself on beautiful, warm beaches while they are getting ready for School and Work and then come back and show them what it looks like to be Really Cool Grandparents!!!

There are Certain Times for Certain Things!

Do you remember what Jesus said when he was questioned, "Why don't your disciples fast like other Disciples?"

Mark 2

18 ... Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?"

19 Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. 20 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast.

The Time of Fasting is for when the Bridegroom is taken away...

When the Bridegroom is present there is no need for Fasting...

Jesus said in the early part of our text:

Now is the time to Dress for Service...

Now is the time to keep your candles lit...

Now is the time to be alert...

Now is the time to be actively Doing what God has called you to...

Because:

When he Returns the tables are going to Turn...
He is a King that Serves...
He is the Greatest in the Kingdom...
To be the Greatest in the Kingdom you have to be Servant of All...
He will have you set at his Table and He will then Serve You...

Today you serve the Lord...
Tomorrow (figuratively) He will Serve You...

When He returns the time is up...
What He called you to will be finished...
It will be a new time...

2. In the mean time it's all yours

42 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? 43 It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. 44 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

Story: When my Grandpa gave me the Tractor

I knew I had 1 of 2 options:

1. Listen to what Grandpa was asking me to do and pay close attention to his warnings.
2. Disregard what he was saying and do whatever I wanted.

*Either way I knew he was going to leave and come back up in a couple hours to see what I had done with that tractor and those gallons of diesel fuel I had burned; and If I had not paid attention to what he asked he would have my hide, but if I had paid attention he would say, Good Job Son...

There is one thing God has given every single person... and he will never take it away from you... It's called **Free Will**

The Parable of Two Sons

Matthew 21

28 “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

29 “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

30 “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

31 Jesus asked, “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

- We can listen and pay close attention.
- Or we can Disregard and do whatever we want.
- Either way he’s going to show up in a few hours.

Everything I have he has given to me...

The things you have he has given to you...

He has trusted us with the Word of God...

He has trusted us with the Great Commission...

When he shows up what will he say?

3. Who Then is Faithful and Wise

42 “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?

43 It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns.

Those who the Master finds doing the work he has for them to do.

Those who Seek

Deuteronomy 4:29

But if from there you **seek** the Lord your God, you will find him if you **seek** him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Psalm 14:2

The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who **seek** God.

Those who Pray

Prayer keeps our hearts focused

Prayer keeps our minds reminded

Prayer keeps our attention on what matters

- I Trust people who Pray.
- I Think God trusts people who Pray.
- Because people who pray look to God.
- Even better, they listen to Him.

Those who Obey

1 Samuel 15:22

To obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.