

## Luke 12:35-48

**Introduction:** This section is based on the observation that the kingdom Jesus offered has been rejected. Jesus does not withdraw the kingdom, but He does postpone its arrival to a future date. Believers must anticipate this future event. This is what Jesus said in 12:31—seek for His kingdom.

### Believers must be prepared for the return of Jesus—12:35-40

- 1) Three illustrations concerning preparation—12:35-36 <sup>35</sup> *“Be dressed in readiness and keep your<sup>pl</sup> lamps burning; <sup>36</sup> and be like people who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, so that when he comes and knocks they may immediately open to him.*
  - a) Be the kind of person who never needs to be told to get ready because you already are. Live ready!
  - b) The marriage festivities in the Near East were in two parts. The **first** stage was a ceremony (and feast or supper) at the home of the bride’s father. Then the marriage party proceeded to the home of the bridegroom where a **second** feast was held. The marriage festivities of Christ and the church seem to follow at least the two-stage pattern. At the Rapture the church is taken to the **bride’s** domain (the church’s citizenship is in heaven, Phil 3:20) where the marriage proper will occur (Rev 19:7). Then the bridal party proceeds to the **groom’s** domain (earth, Ps 2:8) for the official marriage supper of the Lamb to inaugurate the one-thousand year kingdom of God. [McCune, 3:367]
- 2) Blessing for those who are prepared—12:37-38
  - a) The alert—<sup>37</sup> *Blessed are those bondslaves whom their master shall find alert when he comes.*
    - i) These alone will be the objects of His pleasure.
  - b) The unexpected—*Truly I say to you<sup>pl</sup> that he will dress himself and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.*
  - c) The blessed—<sup>38</sup> *And if (3<sup>rd</sup> class condition, probable) he should come in the second watch (9 pm – midnight) or in the third watch (midnight – 3 am), and find them like this, blessed are those bondslaves.*
- 3) Preparation ensures protection—12:39 <sup>39</sup> *But know this, that if (2<sup>nd</sup> class condition, untrue) the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would have been alert, and not allowed his house to be broken into.*
- 4) The necessity of preparation restated—12:40 <sup>40</sup> *Therefore you<sup>pl</sup> (emphatic) also must be prepared because the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you<sup>pl</sup> do not suppose.”*

### Peter seeks clarification from Jesus—12:41

- 1) <sup>41</sup> *Then Peter said to him, “Lord, are You telling this parable to us or to everyone?”*
- 2) It is not wrong to ask God for better understanding (Psalm 119:18).

## God will reward all faithful and wise believers—12:42-48

- 1) There are degrees of reward—12:42-48a
  - While there are not degrees of responsibility, there ARE degrees of liability
  - a) Positive: genuine believers—12:42-44
    - i) Faithful concern for others—12:42-43 *“Who then is that faithful and wise manager, whom the master will put in charge over his household servants, to give them their food allotment at the proper time?”* <sup>43</sup> *Blessed is that bondsman whom his master will find so doing when he comes.*
      - (1) He is faithfully doing what the master assigned for him to do. Well done!
    - ii) The reward—12:44 <sup>44</sup> *Truly I say to you<sup>pl</sup> that he will put him in charge over all his possessions.*
      - (1) Part of the reward for believers is a higher capacity of service. (Rosscup)
  - b) Negative: three types of unbelievers—12:45-48a
    - i) Consciously doing the opposite of what is commanded—12:45-46 <sup>45</sup> *But if* (3<sup>rd</sup> class condition, probable)
      - (1) Internal attitude—*that bondsman says in his heart, ‘My master delays his coming,’*
      - (2) External behavior—*and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and to drink and to get drunk,*
        - (a) Abuses his position, acts self-indulgently, treats others abusively
      - (3) The reward—12:46 <sup>46</sup> *the master of that bondsman will come on a day when he does not anticipate, and at an hour he does not know, and will dismember him and assign him his portion with the unbelieving.*
    - ii) Conscious disobedience has no excuses—12:47 <sup>47</sup> *And the bondsman who knew his master’s desire and did not prepare or act according to his desire shall be severely beaten.*
    - iii) Disobedience rooted in ignorance, while receiving a less severe punishment, is still no excuse—12:48a <sup>48</sup> *But he who did not know but did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating.*
- 2) Principle—12:48b
  - a) *Now from everyone who has been given much shall much be expected from them;*
    - i) For every gift given, an appropriate response is expected. (Magill)
  - b) *and to whom much has been entrusted, of him they shall ask all the more.*
    - i) For every deposit made, a greater return is expected—the deposit plus interest. (Magill)

**Take-home truth:** your anticipation of Christ’s return reflects how much you value the kingdom.