

*March 2, 2014*  
*“Be Ready, Be Watching”*  
*Luke 12:35-48*

*Long before I preached my first sermon I noticed that one of the most popular sermon topics was Christ’s Second Coming. This should be so, as the New Testament mentions Christ second coming 318 times in its 260 chapters and the only portions that do not mention it are Paul’s letter to the Galatians and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> John. Considering that all of Paul’s other letters mention the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming and John wrote the Book of Revelation; we can be certain this is a vitally important topic. Our Lord Jesus Himself treats it as such here -*

*I. Watch like servants waiting for their master –*

*“Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning;”<sup>36</sup> “and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. (Luke 12:35-36 NKJ)*

- 1. Wedding feasts in the Hebrew culture of Jesus’ day were unpredictable in their length and treated as highly important, even by those who did not attend.*
  - A. Those who kept the newly married master’s home had to be ready, ready at all times!*
  - B. At night they were not wearing pajamas but were dressed to greet their master. At night the house would be a glow with lamps! At night surely at least one servant would be awake at all times and watching by the window for their returning master, no one would be caught out of place when he would return! All would be ready! All would be smiling! He definitely would not have to wait at the door or wake sleeping servants with loud knocking!*
  - C. They were ready and willing to serve him with a smile as soon as he returned and to greet and treat his new wife ...*

*2. A WONDERFUL Blessing!*

<sup>37</sup> *“Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit*

*down to eat, and will come and serve them.”<sup>38</sup> “And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. (Luke 12:37-38 NKJ)*

*Here is something ridiculously wonderful and unexpected, the Master serves the servants –*

*We have a preview of this in John 13, when Jesus washes His disciples feet!*

<sup>8</sup> *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrew 13:8 NKJ)*

*II. Watch like a homeowner on guard against a thief –*

<sup>39</sup> **“But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.**

<sup>40</sup> *“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Luke 12:39-40 NKJ)*

*With His first illustration Jesus shows us the positive benefit connected to watching, being ready for His coming. Here Jesus shows us the negative connected with not watching.*

*What is the significance of a thief?*

- 1. He comes when you do not expect!*
- 2. He takes things from you, usually your most valuable things.*
- 3. Not watching implies we lose something!*

*III. What does it mean to watch for Christ?*

*Are we to be constantly looking out our windows, up at the sky? – NO!*

*Watching means being fully and really ready ... even the servants waiting for their master’s return from his wedding did more than just look out windows.*

<sup>41</sup> **Then Peter said to Him, “Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people?”**

*Peter’s question, who do these illustrations apply to Lord, to us, Christians? Non-believers? Everybody?*

*Jesus’ answer in three parts:*

*1. The blessed steward / servant*

<sup>42</sup> **And the Lord said, “Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in**

due season? <sup>43</sup> "Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. <sup>44</sup> "Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.

A. *We are not just window watchers, we are to be doers of God's*

*Word and will –*

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

(James 1:22 NKJ)

B. *Blessings come with a true commitment to God's Word –*

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. <sup>4</sup> The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. <sup>6</sup> For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish. (Psalm 1:1-6 NKJ)

C. *Being a steward means we do not own the things we have, we are stewards of our money, our talent, our knowledge, our time, even our lives, we are responsible whether a believer or unbeliever to live for God's glory and His purposes –*

"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." (Revelation 4:11 NKJ)

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJ)

D. *This does not mean we are SAVED by our works but it does teach us that true salvation will show itself by works –*

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJ)

*We were created to do God's will and so we are redeemed as well to live for Him –*

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For

you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJ)

*Correspondingly ...*

2. *The procrastinating, sinful servant, manifests himself as well -*

<sup>45</sup> "But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, <sup>46</sup> "the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

*Being "saved" never means, 'hey Jesus died for me I can do whatever I want!'"*

<sup>KJV</sup> Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (Romans 6:1-2 KJV)

*We are saved in order to drive (car illustration) and do; we are saved for God's purposes.*

3. *Differing levels of judgment based on differing levels of LIGHT (knowledge of God's will)*

<sup>47</sup> "And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

<sup>48</sup> "But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. (Luke 12:41-48 NKJ)

"God will justly inflict more upon him for abusing the means of knowledge he afforded him, which others would have made a better use of, because it argues a great degree of willfulness and contempt to sin against knowledge"

Matthew Henry

4. *Right watching for Christ's return will influence our attitude toward the things of this world -*

<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (Philippians 3:20 NKJ)

*Arnold A. Brevick*