

## Get Ready - Part 2

Luke 12:41-44; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 4-29-18

This passage (Luke 12:41-44) is teaching on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Whether you agree with the eschatological views of the movie or not, it raises the same question that is being raised in this section of Luke:

*What does it look like to be ready for the return of Christ?*

**41 Peter said, “Lord, are You addressing this parable to us, or to everyone *else* as well?”**

*What has the Lord Jesus been teaching?* Last week we looked at verses 35-40 which emphasize the need to be ready for the return of Christ in light of four images: ready to run and work, ready to light someone’s way, ready to open the door for one’s master, and ready to protect your home from a thief. In light of this teaching, Peter asks a question. *Who is the ‘us’ and who is the ‘everyone else’?* There are two good possibilities: (1) ‘Us’ is the Twelve Disciples (leaders) and ‘everyone else’ is the rest of the followers of Jesus. (2) ‘Us’ is the followers of Jesus and ‘everyone else’ is the rest of the crowd. It appears that either way you take it, the teaching is intended for all three groups, one way or another. Peter is wondering if these words for exhortation to get ready are for the disciples of Jesus, especially the Twelve, or simply for those who weren’t following Jesus. *Ever wonder who God (the Bible) is talking to?* (1 Samuel 3:1-10) We think that it is just a man (or men) talking to us when it is really God!

**42 And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time? Why does Jesus answer a question with a question?** Many times we ask questions without really thinking things through. So God asks us questions, not because He doesn’t know the answer, but because we need to think harder about what is going on. (Genesis 3:9) *What is Jesus’ answer?* Yes! Everyone needs to do what they are responsible to do! And the emphasis is on the leaders because Peter, a leader, has asked the question. *What are we (you and I) responsible to do?* It may seem that what we are doing is not accomplishing anything but our responsibility is to do what our master tells us to do until the end. (John 21:15-22) *What do you want to be doing when Jesus returns?* Each of us has responsibilities that are similar and different than others; whatever others do and whatever our circumstances, we are called to be faithful to our responsibilities. We all have responsibilities in light of our families and our jobs and our citizenship in the world as well as our own personal devotional life. But the focus in these verses is on our responsibilities to the church – to other believers.

*What are our responsibilities in the church until Jesus returns?* (1) *Faithful and active participation in the gathering of the Church* (especially Sundays) (Hebrews 10:23-25). If the Sunday gathering here at Coast is not important to us in this way, then, in this respect, we aren’t ready for the return of Christ! (2) *Sharing of life and resources and gifts in the Church* (Acts 2:41-47; 1 Peter 4:7-11). If we aren’t concerned about sharing your life and resources and gifts here at Coast in this way, then, in this respect, we aren’t ready for the return of Christ. (3) *Showing compassion to the lost and needy to relieve temporal and eternal suffering* (Matthew 9:13; Mark 6:34; Matthew 20:34; Mark 1:41). If we aren’t concerned about showing compassion to the lost and needy, then, in this respect, we are not ready for the return of Christ.

**43 Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.** *What does it mean to be 'blessed'?* 'Blessedness' is Biblical and spiritual happiness – happy with the circumstances of our relationship with God! Practically, this refers either to being given something good by God or being fully and forever satisfied in and by God! *Do you put together these two words 'blessed' and 'slave'?* We equate 'happiness' with 'freedom.' But that is not how the Bible always portrays it. (Exodus 21:1-6) In part, this is true. But happiness is not freedom from God or freedom from obedience, but freedom from sin and disobedience!

*What does it look like to come to Christ? (1) Agree with God about your sin and what it deserves.* (1 John 1:9) This is the repentance needed to come to Christ: a change of mind about our sin. We stop loving it and start hating it. We stop thinking that sin is the path to happiness and see sin as the path to destruction. We stop thinking that we will be better off doing what we want and see that we will be better off obeying God. We will desire, not only to be delivered from the penalty of our sin, but also from the power of our sin over us! *(2) Believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord.* (Romans 10:8-11) We must believe what is true about Jesus: He is Savior and Lord! He demands that we rest in what He has done for us (as Savior) and He demands that we live to do His will (as Lord)! *(3) Call on God for mercy for your sins and for grace to obey.* (Romans 10:12-13) If we call on God for mercy to deliver us from the penalty of sin and for grace to deliver us from the power of sin (so we can increasingly, but not perfectly, obey) – all in dependence on Jesus – then we will be saved!

*Do you see obedience to God as the path to happiness?* How are you pursuing your own happiness? We try to fix our lives and our happiness while rejecting the owner's manual! (2 Kings 5:9-14) Doing what God says to do, with our lives and in each situation, is the path to true happiness and what our hearts truly long for!

**44 Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.** *What does this mean: 'truly I say to you'?* This means: 'Listen up, this is important and unexpected, but guaranteed with all that I am!' *How would more responsibility than before be a blessing for faithfulness?* In this case, responsibility means access to all that the Master has and a co-rule with the Master over it all (the deepest kind of fellowship). (John 15:14-15; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 20:4-6). To serve God is to be served by God and satisfied in God; to serve God more is to be more served by God and more satisfied in God. *What possessions are being talked about?* 1<sup>st</sup> promise: the servants will be served by the Master! (verse 37) 2<sup>nd</sup> promise: to be given all of the Master's possessions or in charge of them/enjoying them! We don't have to concern ourselves with gaining what has already been given to us: the world! The possessions in view are God as our God and face to face fellowship with Him in ruling over and enjoying all that He has (which is the world and the universe and everything seen and unseen)! (Matthew 25:21; John 3:35; John 13:3; John 16:15; John 17:10; Romans 8:32; 1 Corinthians 3:21-23; 2 Corinthians 6:10; 1 Timothy 6:17; Hebrews 1:2; Luke 19:17-19; Matthew 5:5; Romans 4:13; Matthew 16:26; Matthew 4:8) It is the enjoyment of heaven and the New Heavens and New Earth that is beyond description! (Revelation 22:3-5) *Would you be smart to try to gain something that had already been given to you? Or to complain about losses here?* - Hebrews 10:32-36