

READY FOR HIS RETURN // Luke 12:35-40

Message from series, The Gospel of Luke

In chapter 12 of Luke, Jesus is describing some of the hurdles of discipleship—hypocrisy, fear, greed, worry, and, in this particular section, spiritual sloth. We need to be moving away from sloth and toward spiritual service—toward watchfulness and faithfulness.

Disciples of Jesus are to be faithfully watching for Christ to return. The promise of his return is found in every book of the New Testament, iterated at least 300 times. In some cases, the fact of his return is directed at the unsaved, as a warning. But in this passage in Luke 12, Jesus is talking to his disciples. Disciples must be marked by readiness for Christ's return.

Marks of Readiness

1. Working (v. 35a)

A ready disciple will be working—"dressed for action." Jesus uses the parable of a master who has gone away to attend a wedding feast and will return home at an unspecified time—his servants should be found working when their master arrives. In the same way, Jesus has called us to be busy about the right things—we are to leverage our lives for the kingdom and "get on with the gospel."

2. Watching (v. 35b)

A ready disciple will be watching—"keep your lamps burning." Watching servants are ready to move out into the darkness—they stay awake and alert. We also must be watching for Jesus; we have not lost hope in him and his promises. Don't be found asleep with the lights off.

3. Waiting (v. 36)

A ready disciple will be waiting "like men waiting for their master." We are waiting for Christ to return. Two thousand years may seem like a long time to us, but not for the Lord. We must not grow bored with the Christian life—there is always something to do for the Lord.

4. Wanting (v. 36b)

A ready disciple wants Jesus to come back because we want **him**—not just what he can do for us. We are the bride waiting for the groom to arrive, or the child waiting for the Father to come home.

Three Incentives for Being a Ready Disciple

1. You will be blessed—"Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes" (v. 37a)
2. You will be served—"he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them" (v.37b)
3. You will be unsurprised—"You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (v. 40)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some ways you are working in anticipation of Christ's return? How are you leveraging your life for the kingdom?
2. How do we "keep our lamps burning"? What does it look like to hope of Christ's return?
3. How do we fight boredom in the Christian life? What is our source of motivation when the wait seems long?