



ENDURING WISDOM

LUKE 12-17

Sermon Overview

Jesus warned His disciples to be expectant and work towards His return using parables.

His illustrations of the faithful and prepared servant, vigilant homeowner, and faithful manager awaiting a master's return help inform how Christians ought to live in light of Christ's promised return.

PART THREE

Many throughout history, and particularly in the last few decades, have tried to predict when Christ would return, and all have failed. Equally dangerous are those who deny that Christ will return at all.

³⁵ “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning,

³⁶ like men 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. I tell you the truth, 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 second or third watch of the night.

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 I tell you the truth, 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 menservants and maidservants 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.

⁴⁷ "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows.

⁴⁸ But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

– LUKE 12:35-48

The Bible, from cover to cover, makes it clear that history will come to an end. Jesus is coming back to take His children with Him and

to punish the wicked. Just as His first coming was a historic event that fulfilled even the minutest parts of prophecy, so will His second coming be a historic event that fulfills Biblical prophecy to the minutest detail.

Scripture explains those who obscure the truth of Jesus's second coming will be severely judged:

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.

And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

– REVELATION 22:18-19

Interpretations about Christ's Second Coming and the timeline in Revelation have been debated for thousands of years, but Christians must not waste their time or lives arguing and debating about the return of Christ. They must live with their "spiritual bags packed," ready for Christ to return, or for them to go to Christ in death.

In verse 35, Jesus draws attention to those who are so bogged down with this life that they totally forget about His coming:

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning,

– LUKE 12:35

Christians must tuck away distractions that draw their attention away from the return of Christ and be knowledgeable, watchful, and prepared. In verse 38, Jesus makes it clear that there is a special blessing for those who are always ready for the Lord's return.

It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night.

– LUKE 12:38

Christ's return is likened to both a thief in the night and the labor pains of an expectant mother. For those who reject Biblical truth, the return of Christ will be like a thief in the night. However, those who belong to Christ are expecting His return, like a mother awaits her child's birth.

When Christ returns, those who are unfaithful to Christ and live a life that reflects that unfaithfulness will be judged. In 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11, Paul describes them as living in darkness, drunkenness, and sleep.

⁴ But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.

⁵ You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.

⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.

⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

– 1 THESSALONIANS 4:4-11

The remedies to these are light, sobriety, and waking up.