



Living Walking Serving

FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

**LEARNING FROM THE MASTER
(JESUS CHRIST- OUR CHIEF CORNERSTONE)**

STUDY 20-34: THE PARABLES OF JESUS – PARABLES NO. 8

Text: Luke 12:13-21, Eccl.2:18, Matt.6:24, Luke 6:49, Ps.62:10, Prov.11:24, 3:9-10, 2 Cor.9:6-15

Parable No. 8 – The Parable on watchfulness (Luke 12:35-40)

Parable No. 7 – The Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21)

LESSON: If God has blessed you with material wealth “set not your heart on it” and “be rich toward God.”

The parable on watchfulness can be found in Luke 12:35-40

Christians are to not be greedy or worried, they are to put their focus on the return of Jesus. This is something worth putting our lives into. These words of the Saviour are closely linked up with the previous warnings not to be worldly minded but heavenly minded

How were the servants to be while waiting for their master?

“loins girded” meaning the loose outer garments gathered up for work or travel, not let loose for sleeping. Lamps were to be burning. In these two images, Jesus says, “be prepared” and “be awake” even if many dull hours have passed and you’re very tired.

You may have an inner willingness to serve God (your waist is girded) but not have the illumination you need to serve Him well (the light of God’s word burning brightly)

How long to wait? Jesus didn’t really say, but implied the master might not come home until quite late, “the third watch.” Night was divided into four watches by the Romans: (1) 6:00 - 9:00 pm, (2) 9:00 pm - midnight, (3) midnight - 3:00 am, (4) 3:00 - 6:00 am. The Jews had only three watches during the night: (1) sunset - 10:00 pm, (2) 10:00 pm - 2:00 am, (3) 2:00 am - sunrise. The parable probably referred to the last two of the Jewish watches. The wedding banquet would have begun in the first watch right after sunset.

Today, are you waiting for the second coming? Are you prepared if it were to happen tonight? Are you ready? Most of us are not. Most of us would like just a little more time to prepare, we just so busy with everything else. Jesus tells us to be prepared for His coming-which is the most important thing you could ever be ready for!

A thief never announces his coming; he comes at a time when you would not expect him. The way to be on guard against a thief is to live in constant readiness, and the way to be ready for Jesus' return is to live in constant readiness.

What happened to the servants who were watching properly? (12:37)

The ready servants will be served by their Master and blessed; there is rich reward in living a life ready and expectant for Jesus to return.

The three lessons:

- 1) The disciples—and all believers—must be ready for a return of Jesus at any moment.
- 2) You must allow for a delay that must neither reduce your expectancy nor impede your preparedness (vs 38). You must not let this delay discourage you so you fall into a trap or get overwhelmed by the drudgeries and anxieties of life (Luke warns in 21:34)
- 3) You must faithfully manage the resources that have been entrusted to you by God. Don't forget, you are stewards—caretakers—not owners. As the last parable emphasized, you can't take it with you.