

Ready, Alert and Faithful

Luke 12:35-48 (The Faithful Servant)

Luke 17:5-10 (Faith & The Unworthy Servant)

Danny Davis

For Whom and Why: The Cross is near

- Luke 9:51 "As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem."
 - He knew when he would be leaving his children
 - There was a limited time with his children to convey critical concepts
 - Jesus not only looked to the Cross, but also to his return
 - His children would be without him during a perilous time

For Whom and Why: The Narrow Door

- Luke 13:24-29; Matt 7:13-14; Matt 7:21-23
 - The door/gate to salvation is narrow
 - Wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction
 - Not all who try to enter will be accepted
 - Men will come having performed works in His name and be turned away

For Whom and Why: Fulfilling Prophecy

- Matt 13:35 "So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: 'I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.'"
 - His disciples don't grasp the true meaning of what he taught during this time
 - The death and resurrection of Jesus will reveal a mystery hidden since creation
 - The true meaning of the parables come to life once that mystery is revealed

Parable of the Faithful Servant (Luke 12:35-48)

- 3 Traits of a Faithful Servant
- The choices given to his servants
- The consequences of those choices

1. Dressed in Readiness (Luke 12:35-36, 38)

- Ready for Service / Action
 - 1 Peter 1:13: "with minds that are **alert** and fully sober, set your **hope** on the grace to be brought to you when **Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.**"
 - 1 Peter 5:8: "Be **alert** and of sober mind. Your enemy **the devil prowls** around like a roaring lion looking for **someone to devour.**"
 - 1 Cor 10:12-13: "So, if you think you are **standing firm**, be careful that you **don't fall!**"
- Dressed in Readiness
 - Ephesians 6:10-17: "Put on the **full armor of God**, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes"
- Until the middle of the night or even daybreak

2. Keep their Lamps Burning (Luke 12:35)

- Matt 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others, that they may **see your good deeds** and **glorify your Father** in heaven."
- Eph 5:8-10 "...**Live as children of light** (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord."
- Eph 5:11-13 "Having nothing to do with the **fruitless deeds of darkness**...But everything **exposed** by the light **becomes visible**—and everything that is illuminated **becomes a light.**"

3. Is a Wise Steward (Luke 12:42)

- A servant that would manage a household or estate and would often be left in charge while the master was away. (Money, Food, Servants, etc.)
- 1 Peter 4:10: “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in it's various forms.”
 - Spiritual Gifts, Money, Position, Influence, Time, Emotion, Family, Friends, The Word
- Acts 20:28-29: “Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers (stewards). Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Rewarded for Faithful Service (Luke 12:37; 43)

- The concept of a master serving a servant would have been astounding!
- 2 Tim 4:7-8: "I have **fought the good fight**, I have finished the race, I have **kept the faith**. Now there is in store for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to **all who have longed for his appearance.**"
- Col 3:23-24: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, **as working for the Lord, not for human masters**, since you know that you will **receive an inheritance** from the Lord as a **reward**. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Granted Increased Responsibility (Luke 12:44; 48)

- Graduates to responsibility for entire estate, not just servants
 - The reward for good stewardship is more responsibility
 - When you are given more, you will be asked to give and do more
 - More responsibility = more accountability
- James 3:1 "Not many of you should be teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly."
- Human nature is to seek more wealth and power, but less accountability

The Son of Man (Luke 12:39-40)

- Matt 24:36: "But about the day or hour **no one knows**, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but **only the Father.**"
- 1 Thess 5:2: "for you know very well that they day of the Lord will come like **a thief in the night**. While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly..."
- Luke 17:34-35: "I tell you, on that night (when the Son of Man is revealed) two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left..."
- Revelation 16:15: "Look, **I come like a thief!** Blessed is the one who **stays awake and remains clothed**, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed."

The Evil Servant (Luke 12:45-46)

- Eph: 5:5: "For this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person - such a person is an idolater - has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."
- Heb 10:26: "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgement and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God."
- Acts 20:29-30: "I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. **Even from your own number** men will arise and **distort the truth** in order to draw away disciples after them."

Accountability (Luke 12:47-48)

- Eph 5:17: "Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."
- 2 Cor 5:10: "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each of us may **receive what is due** us for the things done while in the body, **whether good or bad.**"
- 1 Cor 3:13-15: "their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built **survives** the builder will receive a **reward**. If it is **burned up**, the builder will **suffer loss** but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames."

Parable of the Faithful Servant (Luke 12:35-48)

- Be dressed and ready for action; keep your lamps burning
- The Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect him
- Choose to be found doing your Master's will
- Great is the reward for faithful dedication to your master
- Dire are the consequences of choosing yourself over your master

Faith of a Mustard Seed (Luke 17:5-6)

- Previous charge: Luke 17:3-4.
”...Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them.”
- Luke 17:5: "The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"
- Matt 6:14: "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”
- Jesus: You already have enough faith to do everything I require.

The Unworthy Servant (Luke 17:7-10)

- "We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty."
- Luke 18:9-14.
 - The Tax Collector not the Pharisee went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.
- Luke 13:30: "Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."
- Ps 16:2-3: "I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.'"

In Review

- Be dressed and ready for action; keep your lamps burning
- The Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect him
- Choose to be found doing your Master's will
- Great is the reward for faithful dedication to your master
- Dire are the consequences of choosing yourself over your master
- You have all the faith you need to obey and endure
- When you obey, do so as an unworthy servant
- You accomplish nothing of value apart from Christ

Closing

- Luke 9:23 “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”
- The world tells you to deny yourself nothing for anyone.
- Matt 5:24: “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.”

Closing

- Is this an easy path?
2 Tim 1:8-10: “But join with me in suffering for the gospel...”
- 2 Cor 4:17: “Do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”
- Romans 12:1-2 “offer your bodies as **a living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God...Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind.**”