



Week 18

Series: Equipped

Sermon Title: Faithful Readiness

Sermon Text: Luke 12:35-48

Group Week of: August 25, 2024

Sermon Date: September 1, 2024

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	Parable of Bridesmaids – Matt 25:1-13
Day 2	Matthew's Version – Matt 24:36-51
Day 3	Faithfulness – Hebrews 10:19-39
Day 4	His Return – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10
Day 5	His Reward – Revelation 22:12-17

The Text: Luke 12:35-40

³⁵ “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ like servants 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. Truly I tell you, 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 middle of the night or toward daybreak. 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.”

Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the main lesson(s) you see Jesus giving to His disciples (and us) through this text?
- 2) What does the analogy of a master coming in the night emphasize for the servant?
- 3) What does the analogy of a thief coming in the night emphasize for the owner of the home?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) In this passage, Jesus makes it very clear that no one will know when He will return. Nevertheless, many Christians try to predict His return using symbols, numbers, and all sorts of coincidences to convince others they know when Christ is returning. Why do you think Christians get so easily caught up in this foolishness? What are some safeguards against getting sucked into this?

- 2) Jesus has been gone for what seems like a very long time now, yet He continually makes this analogy of coming back in the watch of a single night. Why do you think Jesus talks this way even if He knows that His disciples will all die before His return?

- 3) The commands in this passage all relate to faithfulness being proved in knowing that the master will return, but not exactly when. Why is it necessary for Christians to be given the opportunity to prove their faithfulness or faithlessness? What do we find out about ourselves through such testing?

- 4) The reward given to the faithful servant is incredible. The master takes up the servant's clothes, has the servant recline, and serves them! While that is already unthinkable in their customs, it becomes even more incredible when we consider that God is the one serving us. Do you think of Heaven as a place where God seats you at His table and then comes to serve you? What does this teach you about the character of God?

- 5) When we see how God elevates servanthood, it becomes clear that our negative connotations on servanthood are completely worldly. Do you see service as honorable and glorious? If so, is that reflected in the way you live? If not, then why?

- 6) The second example can be alarming because Jesus' return is compared to a thief in the night (let this be a lesson in not pushing an analogy past its purposes). If you knew for certain that a thief was coming into your home, what would you do that night?

- 7) Is your vigilance and faithfulness to be ready for Christ's return equal to your efforts to be ready for the thief? If not, why? What needs to change in your worldview so that you are as ready for a thief as you are for Jesus?

- 8) What is one thing you can change in your life to be more ready for the return of Christ?