

## Packing for Eternity Luke 12:35-48

Five ideas from this passage help us see how to get ready for Christ's Return.

*"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,<sup>36</sup> and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.<sup>37</sup> Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.<sup>38</sup> If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!"*  
Luke 12:35-38 (English Standard Version)

### #1: **PREPARE FOR HIS RETURN.**

*"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."* Matthew 24:36 (New International Version)

*The end of all things is at hand; . . .* 1 Peter 4:7a (ESV)

### #2: **ANTICIPATE HIS RETURN.**

"anticipate" = look forward to His return

#### Two images that illustrate anticipation

- "Stay dressed for action" = Greek phrase = "let your loins stay girded"
- "Lighted lamps"

### #3: **BE ALERT FOR HIS RETURN.**

*But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into.<sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*  
Luke 12:39-40 (ESV)

*"Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!"*  
Revelation 16:15 (ESV)

The image of a thief illustrates how **rapid and surprising** Jesus' coming will be.

### #4: **EXPECT A REWARD AT HIS RETURN.** (See Luke 12:37-38)

Blessed = Greek = makariōs = supremely blest; fortunate, well-off, happy

*Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?"* Luke 12:41 (ESV)

*And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time?"*

<sup>43</sup>*Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.*

<sup>44</sup>*Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.* <sup>45</sup>*But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk,* <sup>46</sup>*the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, . . ."* Luke 12:42-46a (ESV)

### #5: **DON'T PUT OFF FAITHFULNESS AS YOU WAIT.**

Believers are called to faithfully manage their time, treasure, and talents in light of His coming.

The way to prepare for Christ's return then, is to faithfully manage our time, talents, and treasure now.

This passage talks generally about being faithful stewards, but specifically about **serving in and ministering to** God's church.

*But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk,* <sup>46</sup>*the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful.* <sup>47</sup>*And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating.* <sup>48</sup>*But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.* Luke 12:45-48 (ESV)