

The Parable of Being Ready

April 13, 2017

Luke 12:33-48 NASB

33 "Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys."

34 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

35 "Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit."

36 "Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks."

37 "Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them."

38 "Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves."

39 "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into."

40 "You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect."

41 Peter said, "Lord, are You addressing this parable to us, or to everyone else as well?"

42 And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?"

43 "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes."

44 "Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions."

45 "But if that slave says in his heart, 'My master will be a long time in coming,' and begins to beat the slaves, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk;"

46 "the master of that slave 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 assign him a place with the unbelievers."

47 "And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes,"

48 "but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more."

Jesus reveals two principles to be ready for His imminent return:

1. Detached in affection from this world system (*but engaged with the people*).

Vs. 33 "Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven..."

2. Serving others spiritual nourishment.

Vs. 42 "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?"

THE LOVE OF GOD AND THE LOVE OF THE WORLD ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO CO-EXIST.

1 John 2:15-16 NASB

15 **Do not love the world nor the things in the world.** If anyone loves the world, **the love of the Father is not in him.**

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

2 Corinthians 6:14 NASB

14what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or **what fellowship has light with darkness?**

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETACH FROM THE GRIPS OF THIS WORLD WITHOUT DELIBERATE AND DETERMINED EFFORT.

Colossians 3:1-4 NASB

1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.**

2 **Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.**

3 For **you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

4 **When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.**

Matthew 6:19-21 NASB

19 "**Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy** (*aphanizō - consume, cause to vanish, destroy*), **and where thieves break in and steal.**

20 "**But store up** (*thēsauroizō - to lay up in store, to accumulate*) **for yourselves treasures** (*thēsauros - storehouse, treasury, repository*) **in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;**

21 for **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**"

Storing treasures requires:

1. Preparation
2. Consistency
3. Endurance

Where are your treasures?

1. *Where do I spend and invest my time?*
2. *Where do I spend and invest my energy?*
3. *Where do I spend and invest my money?*
4. *Where do I spend and invest my thoughts?*
5. *Where do I spend and invest my affections?*
6. *On what do I depend?*
7. *What brings me security?*
8. *What satisfies and fulfills me?*

Luke 17:26-35 NASB

26 "And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:

27 **they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.**

28 "It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building;

29 **but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.**

30 "**It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.**

31 "**On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back.**

32 "**Remember Lot's wife.**

33 "Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

34 "I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left.

35 "There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left.

2 Timothy 2:4 NASB

4 **No soldier in active service entangles (*empeko - entwine, entangle, involve with*) himself in the affairs (*pragmateia - transaction, negotiation, business*) of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.**

Luke 14:18-19 NASB

18 "*But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.'*

19 "*Another one said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.'*

1 Peter 2:11 NASB

11 **Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.**

"Modern civilization is so complex as to make the devotional life all but impossible. It wears us out by multiplying distractions and beats us down by destroying our solitude, where otherwise we might drink and renew our strength before going out to face the world again.

"Commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still" is a wise and healing counsel, but how can it be followed in this day of the newspaper, the telephone, the radio and the television? These modern playthings, like pet tiger cubs, have grown so large and dangerous that they threaten to devour us all. What was intended to be a blessing has become a positive curse. No spot is now safe from the world's intrusion."

-- A.W. Tozer, "Of God and Men" 1960

Matthew 5:29-30 NASB

29 "If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."

30 "If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell."

1 Corinthians 9:25-27 NASB

25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;

27 **but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.**

"The way to deeper knowledge of God is through the lonely valleys of soul poverty and abnegation (the act of giving up something, renunciation of your own interests) of all things. The blessed ones who possess the kingdom are they who have repudiated every external thing and have rooted from their hearts all sense of possessing. These are the 'poor in spirit.'"

"If we would indeed know God in growing intimacy, we must go this way of renunciation. And if we are set upon the pursuit of God, He will sooner or later bring us to this test."

-- A. W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God