

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Context: “The theme switches from that of ceasing to be anxious about worldly possessions to that of being spiritually prepared for the coming of the Son of man.” – I. Howard Marshall¹

All these metaphors (thief in the night, returning Master, etc.) “were clearly understood as references to the Parousia (Return of Christ).”²

How we should think about and prepare for the future, according to Jesus Christ

- Stay ready! – 12:35-38 *Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,³⁶ 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.³⁷ 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.³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!*
 - ‘Be the kind of person who never needs to be told to gird up his loins because they are always girded up.’³
 - Why? Because the Master could return at any time.
 - Readiness requires detachment from distractions.
- Stay vigilant! – 12:39-40 *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.⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

2 Peter 3:10a *But the day of the Lord will come **like a thief**,*

Revelation 3:3 *Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, **I will come like a thief**, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.*

Revelation 16:15 ***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!*

“If one is to be ready when the thief comes, then one needs to be ready all the time.” – John Nolland⁴

- Managers: Remember your role and your goal – 12:41-48 *Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?”*⁴² *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?”*⁴³ *Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.*⁴⁴ *Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.*⁴⁵ *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,*⁴⁶ *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.*⁴⁷ *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.*⁴⁸ *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.*

How do I get ready?

- Have I signed over ownership of my business, profession, and possessions to God?
 - He’s the Owner, we are the managers.
- Who usually makes the final call in my big life decisions?
- As of today, what are my “First things First?”
 - Time
 - Talent
 - Treasure
- Am I ready?

¹ I. Howard Marshall, *The Gospel of Luke: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Exeter: Paternoster Press, 1978), 532.

² Robert H. Stein, *Luke*, Vol. 24 The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992), 359.

³ I. Howard Marshall, *The Gospel of Luke: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Exeter: Paternoster Press, 1978), 535.

⁴ John Nolland, *Luke 9:21-18:34*, Volume 35B Word Biblical Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993), 701 <https://a.co/hGWhUNs>.