

## The Right Way to Wait

Luke 12:35-48 / "Yeshua" § 111

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Jesus is in His last few months of earthly ministry before He will go up to Jerusalem to be arrested and crucified. He has sent out His disciples into towns and villages to survey which ones would be open to His message and is now going through those towns giving as many people as possible the opportunity to believe in Him. Along the way He has been

training His disciples to prepare them for when He is gone. He has taught them to avoid the example of the Pharisees and not to be hypocrites, to not fear people but to fear God, to avoid covetousness and to not be anxious because God will meet all their needs. And He has taught them to seek first the Kingdom of God.

Part 1.	The Coming of the King
Part 2.	The Authentication of the King
Part 3.	The Controversy over the King
Part 4.	The Training of the Twelve by the King
Part 5.	The Opposition to the King:
→	The Right Way to Wait
Part 6.	The Preparation of the Disciples by the King
Part 7.	The Official Presentation of the King
Part 8.	The Preparation for the Death of the King
Part 9.	The Trial of the King
Part 10.	The Death of the King
Part 11.	The Resurrection and the Ascension of the King
Part 12.	The Sequels

### The Encouragement to be Vigilant

The parable of the Master and Servants teaches the disciples three things:

- 1) That they are to be ready for the Son of Man to return. That they are to be alert and prepared; "**dressed for action** (lit. Loins girded for action) **and keep their lamps burning**".
- 2) There is blessing and reward for those who faithfully seek the Kingdom of God while waiting. "**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**"
- 3) They will not know when He is coming back. "**You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**"

### A Certain Event at an Uncertain Time

The event that the disciples won't know the time of is the Rapture of the church. The Rapture is a signless event. There are no precursors or indicators as to when it will happen, it could take place at any time. All the other Second Coming events have a very specific timeline that can be known through the Scriptures.

Jesus affirms two things about the rapture to His disciples:

It is a certainty, "**the Son of Man is coming**", and it will happen at an uncertain time, "**at an hour you do not expect.**"

## **Faithful Rewards and Unfaithful Consequences**

The second parable Jesus teaches now expands from the rewards for faithfulness to the consequences of unfaithfulness during the time of waiting for the Masters return. The issue in the parable is **faithfulness and not belief**. It is a parable that contains both encouragement and warning for the disciples.

The reward for being faithful is to be entrusted with greater authority. ***"Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions."***

The consequences for Unfaithfulness: In the parable Jesus says the unfaithful servant will be **cut into pieces and put with the unfaithful**. Cut into pieces is an idiom, it is figurative language and it refers to severe wounding. When a believer stands before Christ, the One who suffered and died for their sins, and sees Him in His glory, and then receives a rebuke for a wasted life, it will cut them to the core. He will suffer the loss of reward and be ashamed.

***And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. 1John 2:28***

## **Levels of Reward and Levels of Consequence**

Jesus finishes the parable by explaining that just as there are different levels of reward for faithful living there are different levels of loss for unfaithfulness.

***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. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating.***

Again the language is figurative, it is not a literal beating, it is rebuke and consequence for not living according to the knowledge you have concerning God's will. The more you know the more accountable you will be. A new believer who lived for his own desires but was never disciplined, and didn't know all the requirements of the Law of Christ, will receive a lesser rebuke than a believer who had much more knowledge and still was unfaithful.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Voice of the Martyrs** - This month's action pack items are boxes of 1 Gallon resealable plastic bags (Zip Seal) and medical tape.

**Men's Cornhole Tournament** - May 22nd from 11 am to 3 pm. Sign up on the patio today!