



# CAPITOL<sup>®</sup> COMMISSION

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## CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

### Joy-filled Expectancy – Luke 12:35-40

Knowing His soon ascension into Heaven, Jesus challenged the disciples to cast off hypocrisy and embrace true faith in Him, testifying of Him to all and to set their expectations higher than what only this world can give them. Crave Christ! Desire a relationship with Him! But He is still with them and speaks of a time when He will come to them...so there must be a departure. Indeed, the cross, tomb, resurrection and return to the Father in Heaven fulfill the expectation of His departure. This hasn't happened yet, but in order for Him to become their Savior all of this must take place. But His ascension into Heaven isn't the end of His plan for the universe. There will be a time when eternity breaks into time and space. It is the time of His second coming; and it's full of His blessings upon the righteous and judgment upon unbelief. His instructions are to be ready for His return:

"Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them. And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Luke 12:35-40 NKJV

#### Christ's 4 Pictures for His imminent return:

1. **Have your clothes ready.** In these times the people wore robes. Yes, even like the ones that you see in movies of ancient times. A hole in the top for the head, two larger holes for the arms, etc... Because of the length of these robes it was necessary at times to cinch them up so that one could move quickly. Often a belt was used to gather the flowing garments. Christ is saying, "Be dressed in readiness."
2. **Keep your lamps lit.** A saucer, oil and a burning floating wick illuminated the otherwise dark homes. Wicks needed to be trimmed to work effectively and oil was kept on hand. One wouldn't dare be unprepared for nightfall neglecting necessary light to carry on the rest of his daily routine. Christ is saying, "Have the light on and don't grope around in the spiritual darkness of unbelief."
3. **Be ready as servants.** A wedding in Jewish culture would be celebrated for a week or even more, at times! Household servants of a guest of a wedding would never know at what hour their master would return from the celebration. In this illustration Christ describes Himself as a good master, even a kind and humble one! What Master would

serve His servants?! Christ is saying, "Serve Me well while you wait and anticipate my joy in you upon my return."

4. **Be ready and alert.** What makes thievery so successful is the element of surprise. The thief's "upper-hand" is the unexpected. And while thieves come to steal and destroy don't miss what it is about the thief that Christ compares Himself to. It isn't the *recklessness* of the thief but the *unpredictability* of his arrival. Christ is saying, "Stay awake, be alert...don't be overtaken by surprise in the shame of unprepared-ness."

**How do you get ready for something that you don't expect?** First of all you must come to Christ as one who needs His merciful forgiveness. He is King and God and cannot include you in His kingdom without your faith in Him. (Rev. 3:3; 16:15) This is the first and necessary ingredient in being ready for His coming. If you are not ready to meet Him on that day you will not welcome His arrival nor receive the blessing of His future with Him. Secondly, you want to be ready for His coming not *only* because you belong to Him but also because you are living for Him. You are eagerly and joyfully serving Him in His delayed return readying your life for the joyful expectation of seeing His joy in you in that meeting. (Luke 21:34; Romans 13:11-14; 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Peter 3:11, 14)

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#### QUESTIONS FOR LIFE APPLICATION:

1. **How would *you* summarize the 4 illustrations of readiness into simple life lesson statements?**
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
2. **Why is Christ delaying His return thus far?** (see 2 Peter 3:9)
3. **How do each of the illustrations help you to practically apply readiness for Christ's return?**
4. **Do you delight in the thought that you will be seen by Christ at any moment? -- knowing that you are diligent to serve Him joyfully awaiting His return?**
5. **What picture does Christ reveal of the Master who returns to his household? How does that affect your anticipation of His return?**
6. **Are you ready?**



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#### BIBLE STUDY

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44