



# CAPITOL<sup>®</sup> COMMISSION

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February 18, 2015

## CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

### Jesus—Master of the Universe – Luke 12:41-48

Three brief but picturesque descriptions of readiness and one colorful parable illustrate Christ's encouragement for a proper response of readiness upon learning of His return. Peter was listening carefully amidst the clattering noises of the surrounding crowd and his ears perked up at the sound of that one parable where he learned of the master's well-received return to his household servants. In the middle of a very large crowd of people, intermingled with scorning unbelieving Pharisees surrounding him, Peter wanted Christ to explain exactly who He was speaking of when He told of faithful and ready servants. Christ answered with more than one word; His words were chosen carefully and they ought to be listened to with a sober mind and heart, for in them is reason to make a personal assessment of one's soul because of the fearful ending that awaits those who are unwilling to be ready for His return.

"Then Peter said to Him, 'Lord, do You speak this parable *only* to us, or to all *people*?' And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* master will make ruler over his household, to give *them their* portion of food in due season? Blessed *is* that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him*, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare *himself* or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*. But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more."

Luke 12:41-48 NKJV

**Who is the faithful and wise steward?** In a world where time was not digitalized on every handy screen, and appointments were rare except in the case of extremely important legal matters, every day life was lived with a comfortable yet untidy routine. In the parable in verses 36-38 the master who went away to celebrate a wedding returned to his household without announcement and found the greatest joy in discovering the faithfulness and readiness of his servants for his return. Peter wants to learn more. He wants to know what's at stake; who's going to be blessed? Who will be the joy of their master? Who won't be the joy of their returning master? Christ declares, "that servant who knew the master's will but did not prepare himself" will be the one who will not find joy in the presence of the master's return.

**All the servants knew of the master's return yet some did not prepare themselves in readiness.** In fact, there is no question of his return in the minds of the unfaithful servants. They don't deny His existence, His return, His lordship, His ownership or their accountability to him. That's not what causes them to revel in incredible self-indulgence and corruption of power. Their lack of readiness and faithfulness is their condemnation. The scale of "readiness" was diverse. Some

servants, while being unfaithful, were not as neglectful and dismissive of their duties as others who were in utter contempt of the master's expectations. However, all the unfaithful servants received their due judgment at the hand of the master.

**God is master of the entire universe.** There really are only two types of people inhabiting His "household." Those who are ready to meet Him and those who are not. The servant's readiness has direct dealing in their relationship with their master. Do they desire for Him to have lordship in their lives? Do they carry on their lives in the reality of His imminent (any-time) arrival offering their diligent service as a way of showing their regard for him as lord?

**Our world sits on the edge of great expectancy of the second coming of Jesus Christ.**

According to Scriptures there is nothing that stands in the way of the appointment that Christ has made to return to joyfully receive His servants unto Himself and lavishly gift them with the blessings that await throughout all of eternity. In that same day there will be many who knew of His Lordship, who heard of His gracious offer of a relationship through faith in His work on the cross, who learned of His mercy –all of these will stand condemned and will receive severe and eternal punishment. Though the punishment will vary according to their willful unbelief, nevertheless their punishment will be unpardonable and eternal. There will be no appeal. Their willful neglect to acknowledge Him as Lord and ready themselves in faith for His coming will serve as demonstrable evidence that they are deserving of the judgment meted out towards them.

**QUESTIONS FOR LIFE APPLICATION:**

**1. Compare the descriptions and destinies of the two types of servants:**

<i>I.e. Wise and Faithful</i>	
<i>Blessed</i>	
<i>[Made] ruler over all that he has...</i>	

**2. Why do you suppose Peter wonders who the parable is to be applied to?**

**3. In what ways does this parable demonstrate the Lordship of Christ?**

**4. What is the chief difference between the readiness of the two types of servants?** *(Notice that their lifestyles demonstrated this difference; their lifestyles were not the "root" of their character but the "fruit.")*

**5. All of the servants were assured of the lord's return. What caused some to neglect their duties?**

**6. How does your life demonstrate that you are ready to see Christ upon His return?**



**BIBLE STUDY**

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