

The Gospel According to Luke- Part 6

TITLE: THE WATCHFUL SERVANT

PART 6

Be ever vigilant

READ MATTHEW 24:42-51

INTRODUCTION

Jesus spends the latter half of chapter 24 and the beginning parts of chapter 25 of Matthew discussing His second coming. Specifically, He talks about the fact that there will be many who are unprepared for His coming back and they will be “shut out” of the Kingdom (see Matt. 25:10-13). This links together with Luke 13:22-30 quite well in that Jesus is trying to express the fact that His followers need to be diligent in continually seeking Him and His Kingdom in their lives. He expresses that we have a limited amount of time before God will shut the door and there will be those who are outside wanting to be let in but they will not be granted entry.

Jesus uses phrases like “stay awake” and “faithful and prudent slave” in Matthew to show us the importance of our daily walk with Him. It is far too common to fall into the habit of trying to wander into a good relationship with Christ. What we need to do is spend time with Him daily to be trained into what it looks like to be a true disciple of His. This language of slavery is uncomfortable in our modern time but we need to realize that Jesus has bought us with a price (His blood) and we are now slaves to Him. We are to do His will and we are to follow His command. This is not a burden that we bear but a release from the torment of the chains of sin. He has freed us from all sin and unrighteousness into a life of joyfully serving Him as our King.

We are not to grow weary in doing good (Gal. 6:9) but to continue on in steadfastness knowing that our Master will return and when He does He will reward those who have been faithful in following Him and He will punish those who have gone astray. No one is able to predict the hour of His coming and that means that we are to constantly be in a state of service to our Master so that we can know that we are doing His will whenever He does choose to return. We are to stay awake and continue on faithfully waiting for the return of our Lord and Savior. (Matthew 25:1-13)

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Quickly review some of the events of Matthew 24 and 25. What is Jesus' main point in these chapters for His followers? What was He most concerned with in the passage that we read? How does this impact our daily life now?
2. What does it mean to be "shut out" from the wedding feast? In the passage of Matthew 25:1-13, who are the ones who are shut out? Is it the world or is it people who claimed to follow Christ? Why is this significant?
3. What does it mean to be a slave to Christ? How can we be faithful servants of Him? What does it practically look like to serve Christ?
4. Do you live a life of servitude to Christ? Is it something that you regularly meditate on? Why or why not? How can we better encourage one another to press into lives centered on Christ?
5. Why do you think no one knows when Christ will return? What does Matthew 25 say about the reason? How can we better prepare ourselves for the day He returns? How can we help others prepare for that day?

WRAP UP

The day is coming quickly when we will be in the presence of Jesus. He will come again to judge and to rule. That day will see many who believe that they are followers but, due to their lack of relationship with Christ they will hear "depart from Me for I never knew you" and that will be the saddest moment. We need to be dedicated to following Christ, knowing His commands and obeying them. Through this we will learn what it means to love Him and how to love Him more. This is how we become disciples.