



friendship
community church

Don't Waste Your Life

Luke 12:35-59

Week of January 5-11, 2020

Ask, What are some things that are time wasters for you? What are things that seem to take your attention away from the things that you know are more important?

Don't Waste Your Life, Serve the One True Master

"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, 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. 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. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! 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. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?" 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? 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. 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, 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. 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. 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." "I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? "And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.""

Luke 12:35-59 ESV

In case you are wondering, this is about the second coming of Jesus.

Ask, Why do you think that Jesus would address His second coming when He has not left the first time?

Here are some things that we can bank on:

Jesus' return will be at an unexpected time. v. 40 (parallel verse in Matthew 24:26)

Only the Father knows when Jesus will return. (Jesus took on the limitations of humanity when He was in human form.)

Jesus' return will mean incredible grace for everyone who believes in Him. (v. 35-37)

- The master will serve the servants. The Servant King – this sounds so counter-intuitive. Much like all of Christianity.

- The master takes from what is His and shares with us. We become co-heirs (v. 44)

Jesus' return will mean terrible punishment for everyone who rejects him. (v. 45-47) Not to try and scare people out of hell and into heaven, but the truth of eternal damnation is real and guaranteed for those who do not put their faith and trust in Christ.

Jesus' return will show His justice for everyone (v. 47-48)

The punishment fits the crime.

Ask, But, what about those who receive grace? How is that just?

- Because of the punishment that Jesus took in our place. Justice has been served. The price has been paid. Grace satisfies what justice demands.

Jesus' return means your life will be defined by how you respond to Jesus. (v. 49-53)

Your relationship with Christ is more than your identity with family. Jesus Himself is the definer of life. Two categories: those who believe in Jesus and those who reject Jesus. There is no middle ground.

Jesus' return means you better be ready to meet your Master. (v. 57-59)

Now is the time - don't wait until He returns because then is too late. Be defined by Him right now!

C. S. Lewis - Mere Christianity

"Now is our chance to choose the right side. God is holding back to give us that chance. It won't last forever. We must take it or leave it."

Ask, Are you ready to meet Him today? (never assume that someone has accepted Christ just because they attend your group.)

Jesus return means you should live for the treasure of Heaven that will last forever not for the temporary things here on earth. (v. 55-59)

Ask, Are you so focused on the temporal that you are totally missing the eternal?

This is the same theme Jesus started earlier in this chapter. (v. 13-21) The rich man lived like this world is all there is. He was a fool.

v. 32-34 – Jesus reminds us -

- Don't be afraid because I am taking care of you.
- Stop chasing the treasure that is temporal. I love you so much that I want you to stop chasing the temporal when I am making the eternal available!
- I want your heart to rejoice when the King returns because of the treasure you have been seeking in the Kingdom of heaven.

What would it be to gain the whole world and lose your own soul?

Take time to listen and pray for one another.