



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 65 “Working on Waiting Gracefully” By Pastor Jody May

Luke 12:35-48 ESV

You Must Be Ready

³⁵ “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

⁴¹ Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?” ⁴² 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? ⁴³ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁴ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁵ 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, ⁴⁶ 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. ⁴⁷ 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. ⁴⁸ 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.”

We just left off with Jesus where He had been explaining to those following Him, those concerned with being a part of this new Kingdom how to be free from life’s *Anxieties*. The Promise we were told is that it was His Father’s *Good Pleasure* to give us this Kingdom and that we should place our Treasure there making our hearts secure. It is by coming under the Kingdom’s Reign that we will find Peace for our hearts are there where nothing can destroy them.



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Then it seems like in the very next breath Jesus issues a warning. It’s strange because these next few verses give us a picture as to how we are to be living if our treasures are truly in the Kingdom of God, if we have truly come under His reign. To experience Anxiety Free Living **IS** to be **concerned** with the **person who delivered you this new life** and how it is you should be **acting** towards Him.

What is this parable about? The answer is found in vs. 40:

40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

This is the first time in the book of Luke, that Jesus has ever talked about a leaving and returning. Jesus lays out the picture of **what does it look like to WAIT FOR HIM**, for those that have been **changed by the Grace** of God? And I got to tell you, waiting is something most of us don’t do well (**Illustration of how bad we are at waiting – In modern culture waiting is to waste time because experiential engagement (matters of the flesh) is what is important, in the ancient world waiting was valuable because time was a commodity and what you do with it is preeminent**).... The expectation of the church is to continue to spread the Gospel, promote the Great Commission, and continue in her sanctification just like the last 2,000 years so we had better get a grip on this waiting thing!

Today there are three aspects that can make us all successful waiters **TIME STEWARDS** for the Lord Jesus to return:

1. Experience the Drive in the Christian Life – “The Second Coming”!

What is the 2nd coming?

Just in case you have not heard of this before **Jesus is coming back!** He has been raised from the dead, ascended into Heaven, and is now seated at the right hand of God. It does not matter for you Eschatological theologians in the room today, whether you are a A-Millennial or a Pre-Millennial, but if you are a Dispensationalist and you think it is all going to happen like the *Left Behind* books then you need to talk to Pastor Bill after the service 😊. In whatever your view of



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the end times is know this, Jesus is coming back and that has **HUGE implications** for our lives!

Revelation 1:7 ESV

⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth **will wail** on account of him. Even so. Amen.

Upon His return everyone, not just Christians will take notice of Him. It will be much different than his first trip to Earth. Everyone will know who He is and because of that **if you don't know Him as your personal savior you will be a part of those that wail, to mourn, to beat your chest with grief.** And what adds to this sense of bewilderment is the fact that people that don't wait good, **that spend their days wasting time in fleshly pursuits,** they will be **caught by surprise!** Vs. 39, Jesus compares the moment of His return as to when a criminal picks the most opportune moment to show up, He expounds a little more in Matthew:

Matthew 24: 36-37 ESV

³⁶ “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

People will be caught by surprise in the very acts that they will be condemned for. This second coming leads to judgment for all people (**the days of Noah**), some will be **judged by Christ** (2 Cor. 5:10) according to how they lived for Him, as shown in these verses, and for others the **Great White thrown Judgment** (Rev. 20:11-15) where they will be sentenced to an eternal death, away from God's presence, suffering for all eternity.

So yes, we need to be aware of the suddenness of this return and the consequences for those that know Him not. But **for the elect** there is more here to look at. I want you all to see how **WAITING with a full knowledge of the Gospel can make the Christian life thrilling!** I was reminded this week of this wonderful promise from God when I was actually reading some bad news... (**Pastor Summers & Brian Lowe Story... “Jesus come back soon!”**)



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Revelation 21:4-5 ESV

⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and **death shall be no more**, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things **new**.”

How will our Lord wipe away our tears what is this great act that will dispel the taint of death, in what ways is Jesus making all things new!?

Romans 8:11 ESV

¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also **give life to your mortal bodies** through his Spirit who dwells in you.

And not just you but all those that have lived for Him:

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 ESV

The Coming of the Lord

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

We wait gracefully by experiencing the daily joy that one day every child we lost shall be seen again, every loved one lost in war made anew, every aged parent



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rejuvenated, every person that died to a disease raised with a perfect genetic structure and we are promised you **WILL SEE THEM AGAIN!**

Interesting statistic I just heard this week the CDC just said that drug overdose deaths among U.S. residents fell 4% in 2018, the first such decline in 28 years and that life expectancy is up to 78.7 from 2017 an increase of one tenth.¹ And as good as that is, here is my prediction for the future and you can bet money on it. **Deaths related to drug overdose will be 0% and life expectancy will be eternal, and the field of Psychology shall cease to exist!**

Drive in the Christian life comes from the glorious expectation of Jesus' return

and it is just one of the ways we learn to wait gracefully. But there is a second way in which we learn to be good waiters and stewards of time, and it is not as pleasant to ponder as our first reason, but it is just as important to cover.

2. Know the Cost of ‘being’ or ‘not being’ Ready.

³⁷ 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. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!

Notice in the story vs. 38, how Jesus describes when He shall return, the nature of the coming, no one knows when it will be, as in when everyone is sleeping. The Metaphor of the third watch refers to when the Bridegroom returns from His wedding party. Wedding feasts back in those days had no pre-determined time for an ending. The Son of Man will return when he is done celebrating with those souls that have gone before and when the Father has collected all those he has predetermined to take.

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/life-expectancy-rises-in-u-s-for-first-time-in-four-years-11580398277>



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Blessed are those that are awake when He comes; even though it's late the master doesn't come in demanding service but in turn **has them take their rest**. He serves them, He loves on them and rewards them for waiting well:

⁴³ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

⁴⁴ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

The Joy of the servant is not the release of responsibility but the acquiring of more! That's what that looks like when you live “Under the Kingdom” and His reign, you discover it's the only way to live. Then by stewarding your life well you also learn that the only job available to you is to manage more for the Lord! It is the sweet spot where you have discovered that contentment is not found in running away from responsibilities, but it is running into the role of caring for what is God's! **(My friend giving his life to local ministry)**

BUT, we need to be made aware of what is the destiny of those that have been in the kingdom but like the world wasted their time.

⁴⁵ 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, ⁴⁶ 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.

Somber picture isn't it? You have to keep in mind as well, that Jesus in speaking this way, is further **condemning the pharisees**. They were given the charge of the Kingdom, but they abused their positions of power and used God's blessings for their own gains. They have been stripped down by Jesus publicly, beaten with words and cursed, and their fate has been sealed with the unelected.

For us it is important to understand that we, the Westernized church, are in the same boat. We go to church, we live among other Christians, we attempt to know them not, we are content to show up at church and earn a good reputation, **but we are wasting time in the pursuit of happiness**. My family, I love you, but some of us have fallen asleep waiting for the Lord and I have to tell you this, whether He



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comes back soon or after you have left this world you will be accountable for how you used your time for God’s Kingdom.

James 4:17 ESV

¹⁷ So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Jesus being a perfectly just master will dole out punishment with perfect fairness.

⁴⁷ 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. ⁴⁸ 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.

Oh, but pastor Jody what about once saved always saved, I know I said the prayer...

Ezekiel 18:24 ESV

²⁴ But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die.

Loved ones, yes you cannot escape the salvific work of God, but **by your actions of walking away from righteousness you show that you never knew Him.** A true abandonment of life and coming under the reign of King Jesus secures the treasury of your heart whereby Jesus puts in it the affections for Him. Have you ever been done with the world? You need to be, you need to be so done with it, and you need to pray the desperate prayer of asking Him to make in you a heart that desires His Kingship over you.

If that’s where you are at this morning or you have been there for a while point three there are now some suggestions from the text on how to actually **Wait Gracefully:**



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3. The Art of Waiting Gracefully

³⁵ “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ 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.

- Stay dressed for action – the literal translation is to **gird your loins**. In the past people wore robes and being that these are servants of “The Master” their robes were not rags. Their clothes would have symbolized who they belonged to. Well, in order to work unencumbered and to keep from collecting the dirt of the house and servant quarters they would pull up the bottom of the robes and tuck them in their belt. It was a sign of working in those days.

We are to wait in such a way that we have put on the full armor of God, we have accepted His gracious gift of new attire, but it does not mean that we interpret it as a sign of not having to work. **It is just that our work now has meaning and purpose.** This week think on how your things are God’s not really yours. Open your house to a neighbor, lend to someone in need from what’s in your house, make time in your schedule to visit someone in need, and if you have a problem with viewing your life like this then perhaps you need to hike up that robe and get it tucked and get busy at loving someone as God has called you to.

- Keep your lamps burning – that means to stay awake and alert, don’t be caught in the dark unaware of what is happening. When you are tired you don’t turn down the lights you throw more wood on the fire. Spend your days being informed not just with politics, FB, and shopping lists but seek to understand your time. Read articles that tell you about your community and its’ needs, read a book of theology every once in a while, seek to learn something new through a course of study. Don’t get caught sleeping in the gloom of this world keep the light burning, steward well the time you wait for Him.
- Waiting, watching, and ready – Anticipation! How are you with the art of readiness? It’s like knowing the storm is coming and you have all things prepared. When the moment hits you want to be prepared for whatever the Master needs.



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 65 “Working on Waiting Gracefully” By Pastor Jody May

Who knows, maybe before He ever comes back in the flesh it just may be that Jesus may visit you with something important to do? Perhaps you want to be ready for that? Are you working on your debt situation, are you perhaps too rooted in how and where you live, are you willing to walk away from family if the Lord so calls you to do it? Are you prepared to open that door when the Master arrives?

I want to read to you the words from one of my favorite hymns as a kid growing up, and it is a song that as you age becomes more relevant for you:

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Are you perfectly submitted to His will, this morning, are you waiting gracefully stewarding your time well, living with the delight that He will return? My family, it is my hope that you are becoming excited at the thought of His return and perhaps today you are waking up from a stupor you have been lulled into by the world.

Let me close here with a word from the Master Himself.

Revelation 22:20-21 ESV

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.



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Wk. 65 "Working on Waiting Gracefully"
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PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that graciously holds His Son's return so that all that are called to Salvation may be saved.

Go in the name of the Son, who will return and will come back with a host behind Him to establish the physical manifestation of the Kingdom of God.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that will keep you awake and alert for action and will propel you to share this good news with others.