



Watching For The Lord's Return

"Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not" (Luke 12:40).

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"Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; 36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. 37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. 38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. 39 And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. 40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not" (Luke 12:35-40).

Lack of adequate preparation is often the root cause of many failures and disappointments in life. Proper preparation prevents poor performance. To be properly prepared we must first focus on the right priorities and be prepared to persevere in diligent preparations till the chore is done.

The background to this parable is a master returning home late at night after attending a wedding feast. The focus however is on his servants readiness to open the door immediately their master arrives so that he is not left out waiting in the cold dark night and exposed to dangers. From this we learn the following:

- 1) "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning" (vs 35). Although it was night time, servants waiting for their Lord were not expected to be in casual night dresses, but glad in their work outfit. The same applies to believers awaiting their Lord's return in this dark world (Ephesians 6:10-18).
- 2) "And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately" (vs 36). The key here is being awake and alert to

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open the door immediately the master knocks. It is not the master's responsibility to wake them up on arrival. This implies willingness to sacrifice their sleep on this occasion in order to let the master in.

- 3) "Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them" (vs 37). The ready gets blessed, rewarded and favoured by their master.
- 4) "And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants" (vs 38). The time of the master's return is uncertain and there were no telecommunications facilities as we know today, in those days for advance warning. God deliberately keeps secret the date of Christ's return so as to sift out the hypocrites from the willing diligent servant.
- 5) "And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through" (vs 39). Jesus applied the message in the parable to the protection of properties from plundering by thieves - a solemn reminder that rightful application of spiritual principles in life also benefits our physical, academic, career, business, social, family and other areas of life.
- 6) "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not" (vs 40). The uncertainty of the timing of Christ's return, constitutes a global alert to be ever ready. Those who practically respond to this alert will be amply rewarded at His return. "Be ye therefore ready also...!"