

The Gospel According to Luke

BE READY

PART 10

He is Coming

READ: MATHEW 24:42-51

INTRODUCTION

Jesus, while speaking to the people, often would warn them to be ready for His second coming. Here in Matthew He tells them to stay awake because they would not know when that day would be. This was true for them but, even more so for us. We have no idea when Jesus will come back on the clouds or, for that matter, when we will meet with death and enter into His presence and there are a couple of ways that we can live our lives in response to that knowledge. Many will choose to continue living the old life in the flesh as opposed to being renewed while others will choose to effectively preach the Gospel of Jesus until His coming.

One thing that Jesus states is that the one who is working hard for Him when He comes for them will be one who is blessed. Working for Jesus means that we are daily going out to see His kingdom grow and His will be done. This is what it means to glorify Him and honor Him. We are to work hard for Christ. This is not so we can receive anything but rather, so He might be glorified in all the earth and that the lost and broken would turn from their sin and follow Him. When we do this, we will be preparing for the day He actually brings us into His presence and we will not be caught sleeping or unawares.

The danger that many people run is expressed in verse 48. We can often think that He will not be coming any time soon so we continue on in our lives doing whatever we think is right. There are times when we slack off and lose focus on what our job is as slaves to Jesus. The response of the Master is one of judgement and we forget that Jesus will judge us all one day and we should be working diligently to serve Him in all that we do so that when He judges us it is as unto righteousness and that we might not be found wanting. Otherwise, we will be punished as the lazy slave was here in Matthew.

ADVENT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus was so focused on His second coming? How would the people have received this information?
2. Is there something in your life that needs to be done that will help you to serve your Master better? How can you keep accountable to that change?
3. What are some of the ways we can “work for God’s Kingdom”? Can those things make you uncomfortable? Why?
4. Is salvation based on works? What does working for the Lord do for us? What does it do for others?
5. How often do you think about Jesus coming for you? How does that mentality change your daily living?

WRAP UP

Jesus does not want us to forget that He will come for us. This can be a scary thought for those of us who are living for ourselves but, for those who serve Him diligently, this is a glorious reminder that there is more to this life than just meets the eye and that one day we will be in His presence enjoying His eternal rest, where we can serve Him with joy and blessing. We pray for and long for that day.