

The Gospel According to Luke- Part 5

TITLE: WATCHFUL WAITING

PART 3

The Master is Coming

READ MATTHEW 24:45-51

INTRODUCTION

There is a large amount of popular Christianity that believes we are living in the final days of this earth and that Jesus is going to be coming soon. Whether or not this is true, the Bible is clear that we should be waiting and watching for our Lord to come and, if we are not, there will be consequences. This passage, which goes along with chapter 25 in Matthew and Luke 12, puts it clearly that we are to be focused on the work God has given us to do as well as looking forward to His coming. We have been given a job to do while He is away and it is our responsibility to make sure that job gets done well so that He is well pleased when He returns.

In Matthew 28:18-20, we see Jesus give the disciples the command to go into the world and preach the Gospel and make disciples. This was their calling then and it is our calling today. This is the work that we are to be doing while we await the arrival of our Master. We are to be giving the Gospel and living lives in a way that honors God through the study of His Word and obedience to His commands. The importance of this job is shown throughout Scripture and the reward is great for obedience and the punishment is severe for disobedience.

1 Peter 1:13-16 deals with being prepared to live a holy life and that is something that this idea of being watchful illustrates well. We are to be on our feet. Ready to move. Waiting for the Lord to come but not in a passive way. We are to be actively waiting for His return. Giving the Gospel, making disciples, baptizing them, sending them out into the world to make more disciples. These are the tasks that we have been entrusted with while our Lord has gone to prepare a place for us. When He returns, it is important that we are busy doing the things that He has tasked us with so that we do not incur His wrath but rather, enjoy His reward.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe that we are living in the last days? Why or why not? What is the consequence to that answer when we think about the task we have been given as followers of Christ?
2. Why do you think Jesus was talking about His return? What was His purpose?
3. Read Matthew 28:18-20. What is our job while Jesus is gone? How do we accomplish this in our everyday lives?
4. What are some of the rewards we will experience for following Christ? What are some of the consequences to not following His commands? Why do you think they are so extreme?
5. Read 1 Peter 1:13-16. What does this passage say about readiness? How can this passage help us to accomplish God's will in our time here on earth?

WRAP UP

Jesus is not going to tarry forever. We know this as we read through Scripture. The people of the New Testament thought that He would come back in days and it has been over 2,000 years since. Time is certainly shorter now than it has ever been. He might come back tomorrow and He may tarry for another 2,000 years. Either way, we are to be faithful in performing the tasks that He set before us of preaching the Gospel and discipling people into living holy lives in anticipation for eternity.