

“Stay Vigilant”

Luke 12:35-48

Video: “Taking God Seriously” by J. I. Packer (1:52)

Listen: Last Things/Eschatology by Simply Put (6:14)

LEARN

1. Read Luke 12:35-48 What stood out to you from the passage and sermon?
2. How do verses 35-40 describe the men/servants He favors?
 - a. He's like one who waits for the master to come home; The servant is “awake” and ready for the master to return at an hour he doesn't know
3. What is the result for servants who wait for their master in this way?
 - a. The master serves the servant (v. 37). For us, the end result will be that Jesus will serve those faithful Christians who were awake and ready for him.

Video: “Knowing God” by Sinclair Ferguson (5:31)

PRACTICE

1. Aside from physical resources, what have you been entrusted with by God and how are you stewarding those things?
 - a. This can be a number of things such as: being entrusted with the role of spiritually leading within your home through family worship; or perhaps being entrusted with a friendship with a new believer and discipling them; we've all been entrusted with the “ministry of reconciliation” (2 Cor. 5: 18-20; Matt. 28:18-20/Great Commission); consider the truth of God's word that you've been entrusted with - how do you steward that?
2. What does it practically mean to stay alert, awake, and ready for Jesus to return at any moment?
 - a. You trust and depend upon Jesus, you follow where He leads, and you do what He commands of you; You don't think of life as an opportunity for serving yourself-- whether that includes being cruel to others, or just enjoying yourself to the fullest (v. 45); (Go back to Luke 12:31) Seek first God's Kingdom, be Kingdom-minded, thinking about how to serve God and share the gospel and glorify Him in all you do.

- b. Be "spiritually vigilant" 1 Cor. 15:10; Col. 1:28-29; 1 Tim. 4:10
3. How can you grow in your understanding and relationship with Christ to avoid the negligence described in the passage?
 - a. Devote yourself to knowing God through His word; prayer; seeking out someone to disciple you; begin to, or work toward discipling someone else; seek ways to serve and apply Jesus' teachings in your life
4. In light of our sin and how magnificent God is, the idea that God would serve us can be hard to accept. Peter also struggled to accept this when Jesus tried to wash his feet in John 13:8. Has it been a challenge for you to receive from the Lord? If so, describe what it was like for God to deal bountifully with you even when it was hard to accept.

CHANGE

1. What areas of your life do you need to evaluate and potentially make changes to be more vigilant in your faith? What concrete steps will you take to do so?
 - a. First, give thanks and praise to God that in Christ your salvation has been accomplished - there is nothing you can do to earn anything; Also, identify laziness, procrastination, or sinful habits that need to be addressed; consider routines or relationships that may be hindering spiritual growth; pray for a heart of service and readiness for Christ
2. How has God matured you in the past year? What specific areas do you need to grow or commit to being faithful? What concrete steps will you take?
 - a. Areas for growth: Prayer, regular intake of God's word, church membership, being devoted to Small Group attendance, serving in the church, asking someone to dedicate time to disciple you, discipling someone else, regular family worship in the home, intentional time with your spouse in devotions
 - b. Concrete steps:
 - i. Set a "S.M.A.R.T." goal: "In 12 weeks I will (1) read *A Call To Spiritual Reformation: Priorities from Paul and His Prayers* by D. A. Carson and (2) improve my journaling"
 - ii. Specific: Read two books and improve journaling within 3 months
 - iii. Measurable: Read five chapters per week, and spend 20 minutes a day journaling on Mon, Wed, Fri

- iv. Achievable: I am capable and have the time to read 60 chapters and make 36 journal entries over a 3 month period especially if I reduce my TV time
- v. Relevant: The book helps to improve my prayer life and grow in knowledge of God, my journaling discipline will help me to see how God has worked in my life over time and expand/improve how I journal
- vi. Time-bound: 12 weeks
- vii. **Share S.M.A.R.T. goals with each other so that you can encourage and keep each other accountable throughout the year