

The Parables of Jesus part 3

Various Scriptures

"He then told them, Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because one's life is not in the abundance of his possessions." -Luke 12:15

What comes to mind when you hear the word watch?

Horao; Greek word, means to _____ properly, _____ with the mind, or perceive with inward spiritual perception.

"If what you see is all you see then you don't see all there is to be seen." -Dr. Tony Evans

Some translations say, "Take heed", "Beware" and "Watch out"

In our lesson, Jesus shares 2 parables that encouraged his listeners then and now about being watchful in two areas. Those areas we are going to look at are covetousness and readiness.

Parable of the Rich Fool: Luke 12:16-21

Context: While Jesus is speaking to the crowd a man asked if Jesus would settle a dispute over an inheritance between himself and his brother. Although Jesus did not come to settle earthly disputes, He warned the man to beware of covetousness.

Covetousness: An envious eagerness to possess something. Extreme greed from material wealth. A feeling of envy, grudging admiration and desire to have something that is possessed by another.

What does the Bible say about this? Exodus 20:17; Proverbs 15:27; James 4:1-3

**The man's status:*

He was a _____ farmer. Jesus tells us his ground yielded plentifully.

Is there anything wrong with being rich? Why or Why not? 1 Timothy 6:10

**The man's state of mind:*

The man thought within himself, saying what shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?

Selfish perspective:

It is safe to say this man was _____ not even pausing or reflecting to consider, what God would have him to do. Notice the personal pronouns listed... The man refers to himself 13 times.

Selfish solution:

"I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones and store all of my grain and my goods there."

Selfish resolve:

"Then I'll say to myself, You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself."

Sadly so many people embrace this same philosophy for their own lives; What are some of the sayings you have heard about life that encourages a selfish outlook?

*Get rich or _____ trying *Eat, drink, be happy *Do _____

*You only _____ once

In contrast to the status and state of mind of the rich man, Jesus shows us that a selfish perspective, solution, and resolve is foolish because there is something far greater beyond what we see in this world.

But God said to him, You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be? That's how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.

Does this parable say you should not plan for retirement or that you should not save money or valuables? What does being rich toward God actually mean?

What parts of this parable can you identify? Is there anything about this story that makes you uncomfortable?

What step can you take this week to become less dependent upon your possessions?

Matthew 6:19-20

The Parable of the Expectant Servant: Luke 12:35-40

As Jesus continues to talk with the people and his disciples, he proceeds to tell another story of an expectant servant.

What does it mean to be expectant? _____

Readiness for God means that we prepared to do the smallest or the largest thing, it makes no difference. Whether it is speaking or serving God wants us to be ready. God wants to be able to use us in the same way He used His Son, Jesus Christ.

What does the Bible say about preparedness? 1 Peter 3:15; 5:8; 2 Timothy 4:2

Not only should we be ready to speak or serve on His behalf, but we also should be ready when Christ returns for His bride, the church. Matthew 24:42

*The Expectant Servant is to be found....

- Working: Let your waist be girded; or be ready for _____. In order for one to be ready to serve they could not be lazy. Proverbs 6:6-11; 24:30-34
- Watching: your lamps burning; have your lamps lit. In order to ensure that one's lamp was burning/lit they had to have a supply of _____ on hand. Psalm 119:105
- Waiting: You are to be like people waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet so that when he comes and knocks, they can open the door for him at once. Psalm 27:14; 40:1-3; Isaiah 40:31

Why is it important to be found ready when the master comes back?

*Notice the blessing of being ready in verse 37: Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.

Did you see that? The roles were reversed and the master rewarded his people by serving them because they were found working, watching. and waiting for him. Psalm 23:5

They are also blessed for waiting while it's inconvenient:

"And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants."

What are these times again?

*Second watch: 9:00pm - _____

*Third watch: _____ - 3:00am

Midnight is said to be the darkest time of _____ because it is exactly halfway between dusk and dawn.

Some people view a delay as denial. Can you think of a situation or period in life where it may be difficult for someone to continue working, watching and waiting on the Lord?

In summary, Jesus wanted them to see the importance of being ready for His return and just like his disciples and the crowds who were listening, we too should be prepared at all times.

“But know this: if the homeowner had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

What are some things that get in the way of us being ready for His return?

What is one thing you learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

“Be on your guard, so that your minds are not dulled from carousing, drunkenness, and worries of life, or that day will come on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come on all who live on the face of the earth.” -Luke 21:34-35