

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ In His Absence Until Jesus Returns**

Last time...Jesus taught His disciples by the Jordan River

This time...Jesus warns His disciples what they are to be doing in His absence until He returns:

Watchfulness by

- waiting servants
- wise stewards

We will be in Luke 12

v35-38

v35 loins be girded...lights burning:

In those days, the men wore ankle-length robes.

Such garments were fine for walking but restricted movement when it came to

- running
- working
- going into battle

To gain freedom of movement for those actions, the robe was hiked up to knee-length or higher and secured with a belt around the waist

Jesus is telling His disciples that they are to be ready to

- run a race
- work
- go into battle

And to be ready at all times, not knowing when those actions would be required, thus, keep their lights burning for illumination during the night

v36 wait for their lord, when he will return:

Here in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of His ministry, down by the Jordan River,

away from all the hostility in Jerusalem, before He goes back to Jerusalem and the Cross that is awaiting Him, Jesus tells His disciples

- He is leaving them...which must first take place if He is to return
- they are to wait for Him
  - to look for
  - to await with confidence and patience

Jesus has previously told the 12 what is coming

Matt 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day

Matt 17:22-23 And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, **The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again.** And they were exceeding sorry.

Now He is telling them

- He will be
  - leaving (after His suffering, death, burial, and resurrection)
  - returning, coming back
    - He came to earth
    - He will leave earth
    - He will return, come to earth a 2<sup>nd</sup> time
- During His absence, His disciples are to be
  - ready when He comes to earth the 2<sup>nd</sup> time
  - prepared for His return
  - waiting expectantly, prepared to serve Him as soon as He knocks/arrives

But Jesus is NOT telling them WHEN He will be returning  
Therefore, His disciples are to be always ready for Him

v37-38 Blessed...he shall gird himself:

And blessed are the servants of the Lord/Master who do as instructed, for when He returns, Jesus will gird Himself and serve them!  
Role reversal!!!  
Wow!!

The Lord will honor those faithful servants who were

- waiting and watching for Him
- expecting Him and were ready and prepared for Him
- always waiting, watching, ready, for they knew not when

Note: Jesus would teach by example

- what was expected of His disciples until He returned to earth
  - what He would do unto them when He did return
- to the 12 before He goes to the Cross (John 13:1-17)

Jesus' disciples are to

- run the race
- get to work
- go into battle

while always waiting, watching, and ready for His return  
(which means He leaves)

When He returns is not known but His return is promised

In addition to teaching His disciples what He expects of them in the future  
(post-suffering/death/burial/resurrection), what is Jesus teaching His  
disciples by His “returning”?

He is God their Savior, He is THE Messiah...one and only one Messiah

Scripture speaks of the Messiah as

- The Suffering Servant of God  
(Gen 22, Ps 22, Is 53, Dan 9, Ps 16, etc)
- The Conquering King of God  
(Ps 2, Zech 9-14, Ezk 40-48, etc)

The Jews (scribes, lawyers) could not reconcile the two

So some rabbis taught

- Israel is the Suffering Servant of God
- Messiah is the King to restore the kingdom to Israel

Other rabbis taught 2 Messiahs

Jesus is teaching truth/true light, reconciling the Scriptures (John 5:39)

- 1 Messiah
- 2 Comings to earth
- He is THE one and only Messiah, both Servant and King

He is here now to suffer, die, be buried, and to rise again,  
to fulfill Suffering Servant of God Scriptures

Then He will leave earth

But He will, after some unknown period of time, return to earth,  
to fulfill the Conquering King of God Scriptures

Matt 5:17

On the other hand, what is Jesus NOT teaching His disciples?

About the fulfillment of the shadows in Gen 24

While the Son is NOT in the land, the Father sends “God of help” to the land to  
gather a willing bride for His Son

If She is willing to be the Son's Bride, sight unseen, she will be led out of the land  
by “God of help” to meet the Son and taken to His Father's house

Jesus is NOT teaching about

- His Father sending the Holy Spirit
- The Holy's Spirit's gathering of a Bride, the Church (not in view here)
- The seizure/snatching/Rapture of the Church to meet in Him in the clouds, before He returns to earth

At this point in the revelation of the mysteries of God,  
that is not revealed yet

He will "hint" at it to the faithful 11 before He leaves (John 14:1-3)

Then it will be revealed by God in Scripture after Jesus leaves earth,  
in about 30 years via the 12<sup>th</sup> Apostle

Jesus is speaking of His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming to earth

Note: Other details about His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming to earth will be revealed in  
30-60 years as well

Now, back to what He expects of His disciples between His 2 Comings to earth

v39-40 And this know...be ye therefore ready:

The disciples are alerted that they are accountable to be ready whenever Jesus  
comes back

They are to be alert, on guard...prepared

Jesus is not coming back when His disciples might think

Note: EVERY date-setter has been and always will be wrong!

They don't/can't know when He is returning so they are to be ever-ready

So, implied with these words is that the Lord is going to return after a  
considerable absence

v41 unto us, or even to all:

Peter is not shy about asking questions

"Is this parable for us 12 or for all Your disciples?"

Who is the audience for this teaching?

Who is accountable to know what You are saying?

Who is to be ever-ready and will be rewarded if they are?

v42-44 faithful and wise steward:

Answer: The 12 and all His disciples

The watching servants are to be faithful and wise stewards of the Lord's household (of faith, Gal 6:9-10), to love, feed, and tend His flock

1 Peter 5:1-4

2 Cor 1:24

Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand

Blessed are His servants that He finds so doing when He returns to earth...  
not just talking about it, or sleeping, or procrastinating

All faithful and wise stewards will be rewarded, and will be entrusted with even more

Next word...

v45-46 But...my lord delays.....beat...eat and drink:

But...the unfaithful and unwise steward

- not diligent to watch and to be on guard
- not ever-ready because of the lengthy absence of the Lord (the "delay" speaks of His being gone a very long time)
- thinks he knows when the Lord is returning
- lords over and mistreats and makes merchandise of God's flock vs feed, tends, and loves God's flock
- indulge vs deny their flesh

will be VERY surprised!

- The Lord will return to earth
  - on a day other than the one the unfaithful steward thought
  - in an hour when he is not ready, not watching, not waiting
- the Lord will slay him and cast him with the unbelievers (perish in judgment)

A very stern warning to His

- servants – to be watching and waiting
- stewards – to be faithful and wise
- disciples – "And this know" (v39)

The Lord has more to say to the unfaithful and unwise...  
to warn them to be ever-ready

v47-48 knew...prepared not...neither did:

For the servant who

- knew the Lord's will...His written Word
- disregarded the Lord's will during the Lord's long absence by
  - not preparing for the Lord's return
  - not doing as instructed by the Lord (rather doing his will vs Lord's will)

will be judged severely

Expected of a servant – continual obedience

Expected of a steward – diligent faithfulness

Expected of a disciple – to know and follow the Lord

The servant that did not know the Lord's will (Word) but still did things contrary to the revelation of God given him will also be judged, but less severely

Rom 1:18-21 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Every person is accountable before God for the revelation of God given to him

Every person is responsible before God their Creator for the knowledge given them...and for their actions based on that knowledge.

The greater the revelation of God given, the greater the accountability to be prepared for His return and to be doing what He instructed during His absence

v49 I am come to send fire:

Refining fire and consuming fire...already kindled/started

These fires are the effect of the coming Cross and the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Refining fire for His disciples (Rom 12:1-2, 1 Cor 3:10-15)

Consuming fire for His enemies (Pharisees, scribes, lawyers and those who follow them)

The difference between refining or consuming fire?

Faith in Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor 2:2)...or not

Believing on Him Whom the Father has sent...the Messiah,  
the Suffering Servant of God at His 1<sup>st</sup> Coming...or not

But before the fire comes...

v50 But I have a baptism:

A baptism/immersion in suffering and death, bearing the wrath of His Father  
for the sins of the world

And, here by the Jordan River with His mission in Jerusalem weighing heavy on  
His mind, Jesus declares that he is

- straitened
- afflicted
- constrained
- pressed

until "It is finished!"

Matt 16:21

Matt 17:22-23

John 19:30...as the Messiah, the Savior of the world,

the Suffering Servant of God in this, His 1<sup>st</sup> coming to earth

Jesus knows the will of His Father...

agreed upon before the foundation of the world (Rev 13:8)...

and His food is to do the will of His Father and to finish His work (John 4:34)

He knows He is going back to all the hostility in Jerusalem and that a Cross is  
awaiting Him

v51 peace on earth...rather division:

Just as He prepared the 12 to go on their mission trip...  
without Him, in His absence  
Matt 10:34

Division – separation,

- holy from unholy
- clean from unclean
- faithful from unfaithful
- wise from unwise
- believers from unbelievers

The Cross of Jesus Christ is the point of division in the world

v52-53 from henceforth:

This division, henceforth from the suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of the  
Messiah, will cut thru families

Those who believe/trust from those who do not believe/trust

Sight unseen (John 20:29), Jesus must be First  
Matt 10:35-39

And Jesus most certainly does divide families

Following Jesus may cost your unbelieving family, as Jesus redefines the term  
Matt 12:47-50

My siblings and their children from me and my family...very painful  
Difference: faith in Jesus Christ

v54-57 hypocrites, ye can discern...not discern this time:

Speaking to the crowd there by the Jordan River,

- a cloud from the west (Med Sea) means it is going to rain...and it does
- a wind from the south (Negev) means it is going to be hot...and it is

So why can you not discern this time – His visitation, the 1<sup>st</sup> Coming of the  
Messiah, the Suffering Servant of God?!

As foretold by Scripture, the written Word of God, God's will

For example, it has almost been 483 years since the commandment to  
restore and rebuild Jerusalem (after its destruction by Neb at  
the start of the "times of the Gentiles")

Jesus is expecting the Jewish people to be expecting Him...and they are not

Why are you not able to judge what is right,

- His Messiahship...the Messiah has come!
- God their Savior
- 1 Messiah, 2 Comings vs 2 Messiahs

v58-59 give diligence...the judge:

Be ye reconciled to God your Judge (2 Cor 5:20)

Be made right with God by His Mediator (1 Tim 2:5)

Otherwise there is no escape from judgment and hell fire

In His long absence, Jesus Christ our Lord, Whom we have not seen, expects us to

- be watching
- be waiting
- be prepared
- be ready...always
- be expecting Him...at any moment
- be doing His will...
  - running (and finishing well) the race
  - doing the Father's work
  - going to battle
- know/do His Word

In view in v35-59 is...the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ to earth

A new work/Body/Bride and what happens to Her will be revealed later in the chronology of God's revelation of His Plan of Redemption

Where we stand in time, we have been given that revelation...

and are expected to know all about that as well

And...the signs of His 2nd coming to earth with His Bride cast a shadow we now see!

Therefore...are you watching, waiting, prepared, ready, doing?