

Luke 12:35-48 (NRSVCE)

³⁵ “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Keep watch for your master, be dressed for action, keep the lamp lit. In the parable this month, Luke shares the importance of being prepared, keeping your eyes open, and staying in faith.

In the time when Luke recorded the parable of the watchful slaves, the world was a very different place. Most homes and villages were walled off to protect against bandits, marauders, and other threats. Thieves or rivals would hang out near the gate waiting for the opportunity to rob those returning with treasure or goods as they waited to gain access to their home or village. A sleeping guard, night watch, or slave could be a significant setback to the economic health of the community, or household. It could mean the loss of food,

tradeable goods, critical leadership, or a loved one. Peoples lives, and the very survival of the family and community could depend on the vigilance of those protecting and keeping watch.

Luke uses the weight of this responsibility to drive the message home that we too are also to be keeping watch and staying vigilant in our faith. But what does that mean to each of us today?



Individually, we are all on our own spiritual path, searching, trying to stay focused on what is important. Sometimes, we get caught up in the day to day struggles and forget to keep God and our faith first place. We pass on a volunteer opportunity to help others or fail to listen to the little voice in our hearts encouraging us to respond to others in a more positive way. We let politics divide us and let sound bites get in the way of critical thinking and discovery. We lash out, when we should be speaking softer. We often fail to take care of each other and keep watch.

By the grace of God, every day is a new opportunity to do better, and be better.

Look for ways to help and serve others. Support a local cause, or charity. Volunteer with a service ministry, donate to a food pantry, or just be a friend to someone in need. Be in service to each other, be loving and understanding toward each other, and you will be prepared.

Through encouragement, prayer, and love, we can help each other keep the lamp lit, stay watchful, and stay in faith.

God Bless

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