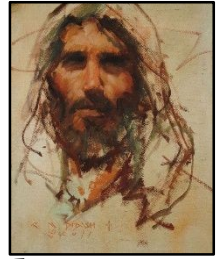


A Lesson in Kingdom Waiting

Luke 12:35-40 (NRSVue)



Waiting in a doctor's office feels like time wasted. You flip through a dog-eared magazine. The end of the article you're reading is torn out for a coupon. Time crawls. Empty waiting counts long minutes of idleness.

But Jesus teaches that kingdom waiting is different. It's sacred, it's active, and it's relational. Today, we hear his call—not to wait, but to *wait well*.

Ready and Radiant

As you wait for the Lord's return, are you ready and radiant? This is what Jesus wants. As he said, "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; 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" (Lk. 12:35-36).

Servants who wait for a master to return are dressed and ready for action. Waiting shapes who you are in darkness. The master is where the aroma of roast lamb and sweet dessert is strong. You're in the night's darkness, hungry, waiting, prepared to serve. Vigilant.

Watchfulness shines long before Christ arrives. Your lamps are lit and well-supplied with oil. You study and apply the Bible to your conduct. You're ready and radiant. You pray. You don't mark time. You listen to those who hurt. You're preparing.

Your readiness opens the door when he knocks. You don't need to end a text message, set the phone down, look for a robe, and stumble to the gate. You're ready, radiant.

Reversal and Reward

As you wait for Jesus' return, remember the reversal and reward that come with him. As he said, "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. If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves” (Lk. 12:37-38).

Grace reverses power—the Master becomes the servant. Jesus doesn’t just reward the faithful. He redefines what faithfulness looks like. At the Last Supper, he knelt to wash disciples’ feet, robes gathered, hands wet with humility. That wasn’t a one-time gesture. It was a revelation of the Kingdom’s logic.

The King turns his authority inside out. He takes a serving tray, not a scepter. He spreads a meal, not for the worthy, but for the watchful. He expects us to be doing the same when he returns.

Jesus serves. We serve. People who suffer know you’ll listen and offer sound advice. People who need food know you’ll provide it. That’s the rhythm of kingdom waiting. Service.

So ask yourself: When Christ knocks, will he find you at the table of self-interest? Or already in the kitchen, setting a place for someone else?

Watchful and Wise

As you wait for the Lord’s return, will you be watchful and wise? Remember what Jesus said, “...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. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Lk. 12:39-40).

Wisdom watches, yet it doesn’t wait for a schedule to happen. A house owner has an alarm installed, makes sure it’s turned on at bedtime, and calls the police if a bandit trips the buzzer.

Since Jesus comes at an unexpected time to redeem the whole earth, your wise waiting might draw you into care of

the earth. Do you recycle and keep the environment clean? Do you keep a clean home? Do you keep a clean heart?

The faint odor of burnt wicks in oil, the flavor of vigilance means you're ready, and readiness says your heart's condition is right. You don't worry over passing days or years. Your lamp glows. You serve Christ in what you do as you wait.

Consider this: *The Master comes by heaven's clock, not at your convenience.* You could laze around, just waiting, twiddling thumbs. Or you could be radiant in your service, faithful in your Bible reading, and wise in your prayers. When he raps at the door, may he find your heart open, your lamp lit, and your life ready.

Aye! And won't it be a grand day?

Amen

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