



Ones Who Wait Luke 12:35-40

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. But understand 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. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Luke 12:35-40 (NIV)

We are in Luke 12 today, and we're in the middle of a long section of teaching. Jesus has been teaching first to guard against greed, and then not to worry about earthly needs: "But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well."

Luke 12:31

At verse 35, Jesus switches to the image of a household, and turns his attention from money and things to the topic of... well, attention.

The servants are to be ready and waiting to let the master in the moment he arrives and knocks.

The expectation is expectancy; Jesus' followers are to be ones who wait.

1. A first question for all of us today is this: Is your life oriented to the things of your master?
 - a. This comes back to the question of our attention. Are we staying alert? Are we watching for glimpses of God's Kingdom and listening for the Lord to knock on the door in the midst of our life?
2. Where is your attention?
 - a. Where do your thoughts go when you aren't occupied with an immediate task? What does your mind default to? What preoccupies you?
 - b. Is it worry? Do you fret over things you "need"?
 - c. Is it research? Is it learning about a project you're working on?
 - d. Is it something you want to buy or a place you want to visit?
 - e. If you aren't sure, here's a test: What is the first thing you think about or reach for in the morning? What's the last thing at night?
3. Most of the things that occupy our attention aren't bad things in and of themselves.
 - a. But — Are you giving your attention on purpose? Or accidentally?
4. If someone were to look at your life as a whole – with unrestricted access – and observe what you give your attention to... What would they say you are waiting for with your life?

Living as ones who wait means being intentional about where we place our attention. As followers of Jesus, our primary vocation is to be ones who wait for our master: who keep our attention on him and his Kingdom.

5. An invitation:
 - a. Tonight, as you lie down to sleep, pray,

"Lord, show me where you were at work in my life. In what ways did I experience your goodness, and when did I hear you speak?"

- b. Tomorrow morning, before you get started on the business of the day, pray for watchfulness to see where God is at work, and for ears to hear him speaking (and knocking).

