

Entrusted 2: The Lord's Steward - Ready, Faithful and Wise.

Luke 12:35-48

MPS Christ-followers live as stewards of the Lord Jesus in all of life to walk in His blessing.

OBJ Every person can understand how to live in the Lord's blessing as His steward by three life postures.

INTRO Living in accordance with your knowledge. **Is there any area of your life where you knowingly do not live in accord with what you know to be true?** In 2011 a tornado of the worst nightmare hit Joplin, MO, with such a force that it destroyed a percentage of the town. The stories that followed were simply unbelievable. Maybe the most unreal was that the hospital was move six inches off its foundation, the whole hospital! A pastor friend was leading a service when the tornado hit. In reflecting a couple of years later he told me, "We all knew what to do, we just didn't believe it would be that bad. But now every time the sirens sound, the whole town runs for cover."

We don't always live according to what we know, do we. Why is this? There are a myriad of reasons. Sometimes we live by what we feel or allow ourselves to think at a given moment. We entertain options, tolerate temptations, navigate concessions, and consider outcomes that cause us to question what we know for what we might be missing. Very often our knowledge doesn't change, but our standard that gets compromised in the process to lead us to live differently.

TRANS Today's passage exhorts us to live in accordance with what we know to be true for a reward beyond this world.

READ Luke 12:35-48

³⁵"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

⁴¹Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?" ⁴²And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? ⁴³Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁴Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁵But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, ⁴⁶the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. ⁴⁷And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. ⁴⁸But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more. **Luke 12:35-48**

[.35-40] In a series of teachings on living as a follower of God, Jesus addresses his disciples with a parable that teaches on living in the Lord's blessing as a steward. He begins with a clear exhortation, "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning." He likens this to servants who are awaiting the return of a master that is away at a wedding. Upon return he finds his servants ready for him. The master blesses them greatly by dressing himself for service and serving his servants. This is no ordinary master, but one who willingly serves his servants. To emphasize his point of readiness, Jesus states that the master would not even leave his house if he knew when a thief was coming. **Jesus teaches His disciples that they are to live ready because while they know the Son of Man is coming, they do not know when and it will be an hour they do not expect.**

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Jesus teaches his disciples how to live as faithful servants for the blessing of God on their life. Three times Jesus repeats the master's blessing on the servant. (.37, 38, 43) The way a servant lives to receive the master's blessing is



captured in one word, steward. A steward is one entrusted by the master with his business in his absence. The steward is charged to care for the master's business in the way the master has instructed. Because we are entrusted, we are stewards, which determines the way we live our whole life. **Entrusted means we live distinctively as stewards of what God has given to us, the gospel, the very means by which we walk in the whole counsel of God's Word.**

Q? HOW do we live as stewards of King Jesus to walk in His blessing?

OBJ Three Postures of life for a Steward that bring the Lord's blessing.

1. Live Ready. 12:35-40

"*Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning*" Jesus says. The typical dress in the first century included a long robe as the outside covering. There were many advantages to this, but one disadvantage was how it encumbered movement. To prepare for work and other activity, the robe was gathered and bound at the waist to allow for unencumbered motion. As well, keeping lamps burning required that they have enough oil to make it through the night. **Jesus commands his disciples with both images to live ready for the master's return because His blessing will be greater than they imagined.**

The Apostles teach us to live ready too. When Paul teaches on the armor of God he states, "*Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth,*" (Ephesians 6:14) The belt of truth holds the whole armor together as one for battle. We know what truth is, and Paul teaches that we are to fasten our whole life by it to live ready for the Lord. **Living ready positions our life to walk by what we know to be true.** Peter calls for the same action when he writes, "*Therefore, preparing your minds for action,*" (1 Peter 1:13) Of first importance for our preparedness is that we consume our mind with the truth of God's Word, in both what we think about, the content (Philippians 4:8), and the way, or pattern (Colossians 3:1-4), of our thinking. **Living ready patterns our life because we live in accordance with what we know to be true.** And finally, the way we do this is to keep God's truth as the priority of our life. Jesus teaches, "*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*" (Matthew 6:33) We know God's truth is our highest glory, of greatest value for our good, and so we keep it as our first priority in all. **Living ready positions and patterns our life by prioritizing the truth of God's Word to keep our whole life.**

Stewards live ready for the Master at all times. We don't know the hour of the Lord's return, but we don't have to know because it changes nothing. When is not important. That He will return and how we are found upon His return is what matters. Stewards live ready because we know our Master will return and His blessing will be worth it. **Living ready means that the priority of your life reveals that your hope is set on Jesus, awaiting the King's return by living for God's Kingdom now.**

Q? Are you living ready for Jesus?

[.41-44] In response, Peter asks who this teaching is for. Jesus responds with a question and an additional parable. He asks, "*Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time?*" **Who would you say is the faithful and wise manager who should be promoted over the entire household?** This is not a hard question to answer because the answer is rather obvious. **Jesus says the one who will be blessed with all the master's possessions will be the one found taking care of what the master has already given to him.**

[.45-46] Jesus provides the opposite alternative as well, of the servant who is found not taking care of the master's business. This servant grows weary with the master's delay in returning. He begins to take matters into his own hands and do things the way he thinks they ought to be done instead of how the master would have them done. And he begins to use the master's resources to serve himself, even to excess. When the master returns it catches this servant by surprise because he was no longer ready. And even more, he had substituted faithful and wise with selfish and indulgent. Instead of blessing, he encounters the master's wrath.

2. Live Faithful.



The one who is faithful is the one who takes care of what they have already been given in the way that pleases the master. And Jesus pronounces his blessing on this servant. This is for the disciples and all who are God's servants. Jesus provides an illustration of how one strays from faithfulness too. And the one factor that determines unfaithfulness is when the servant loses focus on the master and centers everything on self. Selfishness leads the servant on a very destructive path. [Self always centers the wants and wishes of the servant to live in unfaithfulness.](#)

Contrary to so much fodder among Christians today, faithfulness is fundamental to following Jesus. Faithfulness is not determined simply by being around when Jesus gets talked about, talking a lot about Jesus, or ever talking about Jesus in the right way. Faithfulness is holding to Jesus regarding the things He talked about, the commands and promises He gives in His Word. I fear faithfulness get misconstrued sometimes to thing that it infers what we do FOR Jesus. Faithfulness does not mean taking care of self so not to bother God. God is not impressed by nor interested in what we can do for Him. Faithfulness centers on our trusting fully in what He has done for us. [Faithfulness means that we live in full dependence upon God by trusting Jesus to obey His Word.](#)

Faithful means the servant knows the master's will and manages all according to the master's way. And the reason the master entrusts more to him is because he was faithful in what he had been given. This means faithfulness requires two aspects. The servant must understand what they have and what the masters wants them to do with what they have. [Do you understand what God has given to you, of all that He has given to you? Do you know how He wants you to use it, to steward it for His glory? Faithfulness demands that we understand all that God has given to us and live in accordance to His way.](#)

The glory of faithfulness for followers of Jesus Christ is that we know God is faithful. He is faithful in all that He has done for us, all that He has given to us, and all that He has commanded of us. There is nothing in which our God has ever failed to be faithful; He is faithful and True.(Revelation 19:11) When we live faithful, we are following after the likeness of our God. When we live faithful, we are trusting in our Savior. When we live faithful, we becoming like our Lord. The Faithfulness of our God motivates our faithfulness to God. [Live faithfully means that the practices of your life demonstrate that obeying and serving God is more important than serving self wants now.](#)

Q? Are you living faithful unto Jesus?

[.47-48] Finally, Jesus states that the responsibility of the servant is in accordance with his knowledge.(.47-48)

3. Live Wise.

Few would argue that wisdom and knowledge are the same thing, but we often treat them in the same way. Wisdom is not what you know, but how you use and apply what you know to live to honor the Lord. Wise means one lives in accord to the knowledge of the Lord and His Word because of who you know Him to be – Jesus, the eternal wisdom and power of God.(1 Corinthians 1:24) [The steward who lives wise is always blessed because he trusts in the Master's way.](#)

The Bible is full of promise for the one who lives by the Lord's Wisdom. It begins with one of the oldest verses in the Bible. Psalm 90:12 reminds us that when Jesus is our refuge, the one to whom we run to, He imparts His wisdom into our heart. Our God gives wisdom(Proverbs 2:6) – knowledge that comes with understanding – that we might walk in His ways with our whole life. And for any who do not have the wisdom they feel they need, Jesus invites us to ask and promises that He will supply all we need, and in His true fashion, even more!(James 1:5) When we fail to live in obedience to God's Word by faith, it is always because we choose to walk in opposition to the knowledge of God, both in what we know and even what we may not know, by walking in the darkness and folly of the world's ways.(1 Corinthians 3:19) When we walk by faith, God gives us all we need, both in knowledge and understanding, to walk in the light of His wisdom for our life. [Live wise means that the patterns of life now are focused on the eternal reward of the King by ordering life according to God's promise, wisdom and power.](#)

Q? Are you living wise in the knowledge and understanding of Jesus?

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CLOSE Entrusted is a call to live for the Master, King Jesus, and to align your whole life under His Lordship. **What do you need today to live as a steward of the Lord? Do you know all the Lord has given to you? Do you know the Lord's will? Are you living ready, faithful, and wise? OR, are you growing weary in waiting on the Master?**

