

## PARABLE OF THE FAITHFUL SERVANTS

Luke 12:35–48

Here Christ explains that true disciples in pursuit of the King's business are prepared, focused and diligent. When our Lord knocks, all those who enter by the narrow gate will respond quickly. *"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."* [2 Tim. 2:15]



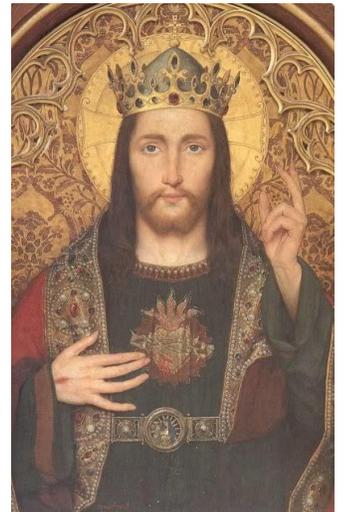
Eustache Le Sueur,  
*Christ Healing the Blind Man*

As in the Parable of the Ten Virgins, all ten went to meet the bridegroom. But when he arrived, only five were ready. Only those who were prepared received eternal joy and fellowship with him. Consider the encouragement of Rev. 3:20: *"If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."*

Night watches ran from six to nine, from nine to midnight, from midnight to three, and from three to six. Jesus warns that he could return at a late and unexpected hour; perhaps the second or third watch. The Lord says, *"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."* [v39] So then Kingdom Disciples must understand that preparation is a lifetime occupation.

Peter asked if Christ intended the parable to apply to the disciples or others. [v40] He answered by describing the true disciple as a *"faithful and wise manager"*, one who provides his master's household – the church – with "their portion of food at the proper time" [v42]. At the end of his earthly ministry, Jesus posed a question to Peter: 'Do you love me?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you' . . . . Jesus replied, 'Feed my sheep.'" [John 21:16–17]

Proverbs 23:7 reads, *"As a man thinks in his heart, so is he."* A church leader is responsible for the people in the congregation. If in his heart a leader decides to abuse his authority and indulge himself, the church will suffer. God will judge this man like a common criminal.



Are we diligently engaged in the Master's business, ready for our Lord's return? *"Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."* [Mat. 24:40–42] Jesus explained this in the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares: *"The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father."* [Mat. 13: 41–43]

Evening Lesson, Wednesday, September 25, 2019