

## TWO ASPECTS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

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Luke 12:35-48

1. We find Jesus surrounded by thousands of people, but His teaching was directed at those who identified with Him as disciples.
2. The term disciple is sometimes used in a general sense referring both to those who were disciples indeed and those who were disciples in name only.
3. I believe that is the case here.
4. We have already looked at some of the warnings that Jesus directed at His followers; both true and false.
5. He had told them to beware:
  - a. Of the sin of hypocrisy—be genuine.
  - b. Of misplaced fear—fear God; not men.
  - c. Of denying Him before men.
  - d. Of neglecting and resisting the Holy Spirit.
  - e. Of anxiety in the face of opposition.
6. He also told them to be on guard:
  - a. Against every form of greed, which implies that greed comes in many forms.
  - b. Against leaving God out of our lives and plans.
  - c. Against losing our focus related to what life is really all about.
7. Here Jesus focused on two aspects of the Christian life; being and doing.

### I. Being. 35-40

A. If we are true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ we are to live in a constant state of readiness.

B. When I was in the Navy I served for two years on a sub tender; an armed, large, floating repair shop that maintained, repaired and supplied submarines.

NOTE: By armed I mean that we were not a fighting ship, but we had the means to fight if we needed to.

1. From time to time we went to sea to train for the eventuality of some type of conflict.
2. Our captain let it be known that he was not happy that we did not always take our training drills seriously because we knew they were not for real.
3. Yet he took his job seriously because he had been around long enough to know that in the military readiness is important.
4. On one occasion we were on our way from Charleston, SC, our home port, to the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, just prior to the Cuban Missile Crisis.
5. About 2:00 AM we were awakened by the General Quarters Alarm and the loud speaker blaring, "General quarters, general quarters! This is not a drill, this is not a drill!"

6. We found out later that a Russian ship was on a course to intercept ours, and they would not acknowledge our signals or change course.
  7. Eventually they blinked first and changed their course.
  8. After the crisis was over our captain commended the crew for the fact that we were manned and ready in record time.
  9. We were able to respond when it counted because our captain believed in maintaining a state of readiness.
- C. Here Jesus, our Spiritual Captain, commanded, “Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit.”
- D. We are to be prepared:
1. For the sound of the Master’s knock.
  2. To render whatever service the Master may require.
  3. No matter how long the Master may delay.
- E. Readiness for a follower of Jesus Christ involves:
1. Maintaining and nurturing our relationship with the Lord through worship, prayer, Bible study, and active and ongoing involvement with a local body of like-minded believers.
  2. Faithful attention to maintaining a right walk before the world.
  3. Diligent study and preparation. 2 Timothy 2:15  
 “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”
- F. Note the special promise given to those who are constantly dressed in readiness with their lamps lit. 36-38
- NOTE: We need to be ready for the Lord’s return, but we also need to be ready to respond to every opportunity and challenge that comes our way.

## II. Doing. 41-48

- A. Note Peter’s response, “Lord, are You addressing this parable to us, or to everyone else as well?”
- B. Jesus did not answer Peter’s question directly, but He went on to teach about a second important aspect of the Christian life, which is doing what God has assigned us to do with whatever resources He has made available to us.
- C. A steward was someone who had oversight over a wealthy man’s business and household affairs.
- D. A faithful and sensible steward was one who faithfully fulfilled his responsibilities even when the master was absent.
- E. A faithful steward was rewarded with greater trust and responsibility.
  1. All of us need to ask ourselves what we are doing with the opportunities, responsibilities, and resources we already have?
  2. Don’t expect to be used in a greater capacity if you are not currently fulfilling your duties as Christ’s steward.

F. Those who take God for granted and fail to fulfill their stewardship may not be Christians at all.

G. Jesus also pointed out that judgment and accountability will be based on the knowledge a person has had access to.

H. James wrote the following in James 1:19-25.

This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. 22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. 25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

### **APPLICATION**

1. Jesus will one day return in the air for His church, and later He will come bodily to this earth to rule and reign for a thousand years, but to apply these Scriptures in that context only is to miss the point Jesus was making.

2. He was calling on those who called themselves disciples to demonstrate the truth of that claim by:

a. Living in a state of readiness.

b. Being faithful stewards.

3. We should be able to say with Paul, "Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us." Philippians 3:17

4. Let us be dressed in readiness; with our lamps lit.

5. Let us be about our Master's business until He calls for us, or comes for us.