

## **Luke 12:32-48:**

<sup>34</sup> *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Luke, treasure the Word of God, HSp points us to Jesus –

background – “resolutely set out” to Jerusalem (9:51), travelling, sent 72, been to Martha and Mary, challenges from teachers of law, crowds are gathering around him  
Read 12:1-11

Setting is teaching about what is to come and what to do now –

build up treasure in heaven – Word of God – last week;

this week being ready for the return of the master – ready, faithful, not distracted

### **1. Readiness (v35-39)**

<sup>35</sup> “Be dressed **ready for service and keep your lamps burning,**  
; <sup>36</sup> like **servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet,** ; so that **they can immediately open the door for him.**

**<sup>37</sup> It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. ...even if he comes in the middle of the night – he will come and wait on them**

<sup>39</sup> **But the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”**

*How ready are we? Where is our heart and where is our treasure? Rooted in the word of god or in the ways of the world?*

### **2. Faithfulness: Word and holiness (v41-44)**

<sup>41</sup> Peter asked, “Lord, are you telling this parable **to us, or to everyone?”**

**faithful and wise manager, give them their food allowance** at the proper time? <sup>43</sup> **It will be good for that servant. he will put him in charge of all his possessions.**

*Feed others – with the Word of God – LLF – will we be ready? Or found having pointless arguments (Titus 3:9, 2 Tim 2:23) children of God who inherit the kingdom*

*Example – LLF – wont enter these discussions until the summer and in person!  
(we need a **radical new***

**Christian inclusion in the Church. This must be **founded in Scripture, in reason, in tradition, in theology and the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it;** it must be based on good, healthy, flourishing relationships, and in a proper twenty-first century understanding of being human and of being sexual.** LLF, Archbishops, out of context;

Several positions:

- biblical orthodox view of relationships and the love of God, what is sinful; and what a loving response is has been patchy and often judgemental;
- secular view – Government have changed the law so why doesn't the church? Listening to the world, not the word of God;

- Don't know what Bible says – natural law of a loving God means universal love and salvation – not scriptural ; find out more
- Do know what Bible says but believe it to be wrong ; low view of scriptural authority, cannot agree with church teaching, but seek to change it
- Do know what bible says but try to interpret it to mean something else ; higher view of scriptural authority, different method of interpretation, area of debate especially about how do we discern biblical truth and the will of God?

Whichever is you, take heed of the warnings that follow; whichever position you hold, think about which category you might be in

### 3. Selfish distraction

**A) Active rebellion:** <sup>45</sup> **But**, 'a long time in coming,' and he then **begins to beat the other servants**,. **He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.** – *discipline in the church, scripture is useful for rebuke and correction – otherwise there is an eternal punishment that awaits*

*Baptism vows – fight against the world and the devil;  
"don't preach about the world" – judge not lest you be judged – planks and dust (Matt 7);  
engage and encourage and share the gift, don't judge – opening/closing churches eg  
Balance of discernment – are we saving people from judgement or just judging them ourselves?*

**B) Slow discipleship:** <sup>47</sup> **"The servant who knows the master's will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows.** – *accountability in church for holiness and obedience*

**C) Not of this fold:** <sup>48</sup> **But** the **one who does not know** and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with **few blows.** – *teach in righteousness*

**given much, much will be demanded; entrusted with much, much more will be asked.**

*Freely you have received – freely you must give (Matt 10);  
James – put it into practice (James 1) – that's our response – holiness – set apart for God,  
but in the world not of it.*

*Word and holiness.*

*2 Tim 3:16-17 ....Scripture is useful to....Correct the world and the church, rebuke it, to train in righteousness for good works. But remember that .....Jesus came to save the world not condemn it! (John 3)*

*Francis Chan – letters to the church (quote from back of book) – dealing with the proud/selfish distractions; - we can all fall into this temptation....*

*humility,  
challenge,  
hanging out not avoiding,*

*no divisiveness,  
don't dwell,  
praise Jesus and  
compete to be most honourable!*

*Finally, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—  
think about such things. (Phil 4:8)*

*Be ready, be faithful and avoid selfish distraction.*

*Lets pray....*

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