

Be Ready – Luke 12:35-40

- I. Unexpected Events
 - a. EXAMPLE: Branch that came down on power lines in front of the house.
 - i. If it had caught fire, we would have needed to take immediate steps to keep our house from catching on fire
 - ii. Even if that meant staying up all night watching.
 - iii. We were prepared to do that, if necessary.
 - iv. Unprepared: I have a big branch to cut up and my chainsaw has been out of service for several months.
 - b. Unexpected does not mean unprepared
- II. KEY STATEMENT: In Luke 12 Jesus describes His second coming in two aspects, as it will be for those who are ready, and as it will be for those who are unprepared
- III. The ready
 - a. Like watchful servants (v. 35-36)
 - i. They want to be ready at the first sound of his hand on the door to open for him and serve him
 - 1. The Master could tell if his servants were unprepared if it took forever for them to hear his knock and get from wherever they are to where he is
 - 2. On the other hand, if they are watching and are already at the door, and at the moment his hand touches the door they open and say, Welcome home, Master, then He knows He is indeed welcome.
 - ii. What it takes
 - 1. Dressed – you can't answer the door if you aren't dressed appropriately
 - a. Col. 3 – we talked about the moral habits that make up the suitable dress of the servants of Jesus Christ
 - b. Are we always dressed in our white robes ready to serve the Lord?
 - c. The Master could tell if his servants had been unprepared if they are only half dressed or in the middle of dressing when He gets home, or their uniform is all wrinkled and out of place because they have been sleeping on the job.
 - d. The Master could tell if his servants were ready if they have every part of their servant's uniform present, in order, clean and crisp.
 - 2. Lamps Lit – you can't help Master if your lamp is not lit
 - a. No electric lighting, or flash lights
 - b. At night, you needed to carry your light
 - i. Servants took the place of:
 - 1. Outdoor security lights

2. Walkway illumination lamps
3. Light switches inside each doorway
4. Automatic motion sensing lights
5. Recessed lighting fixtures
6. The Clapper
- ii. For one who was honorable and wealthy enough to have servants, to carry your own lamp would be a demeaning circumstance
- c. Lamps had to be trimmed and lit, this took time
 - i. Something that was already burning had to be found
 - ii. Or fire had to be made to light the lamp
- d. The Master could tell if his servants were unprepared if their lamps were unlit or smoking or barely burning from having just been lit.
- e. The Master could tell if his servants were ready for their arrival if their lamps are trimmed and lit, burning with a strong, clear flame.
- iii. There is a big difference between being greeted at the door by your adoring family and having to hunt them down to find where they are
 1. When it is your servants that aren't there, you have a right to be somewhat upset with them and maybe even say so
 2. Attendance –
 - a. The emphasis here is on Jesus' second coming at the end of the world
 - b. We don't know when that is, but there is another time of fellowship in the presence of our Master Jesus Christ
 - i. When two or three are gathered in my name
 - ii. There I am in their midst
 - iii. We don't know when Christ will come on the cloud with all the angels
 - iv. But we do know when He will come in sweet fellowship with the saints
 - v. We advertise those times on the sign out front, on our website and in our bulletin and on our invitation cards that we hand out
 - vi. If you want to be where Jesus is, come here then
 - vii. But when Jesus comes to our assemblies, will you be there?
 - viii. Will he find you watching and waiting for Him?
 - ix. If He desires and wants to see you will He have to hunt you down somewhere else

because you just aren't there when you knew He would be there?

- x. Every Lord's day is a special day, because Jesus comes to visit with His saints
- 3. Opportunities to serve others in the name of Christ
 - a. God may put opportunities to serve in our paths
 - b. But if we are unprepared, we will miss them
 - c. We don't know when they will come so we need to be ready
- 4. Opportunities to defend God, the church or the truth against error
 - a. God may put opportunities to serve in our paths
 - b. But if we are unprepared, we will miss them
 - c. We don't know when they will come so we need to be ready
- 5. Opportunities to have daily fellowship with God
 - a. We may be busy
 - b. But if we are too busy to stop and commune with God in prayer and devotion each day, we are TOO BUSY
- b. Rewarded and honored (v. 37-38)
 - i. Served by the master
 - 1. This is an astounding picture!
 - 2. The Master is so appreciative of his servants preparation and readiness that He serves them
 - 3. What kind of Master would do this?
 - 4. Our Master!
 - ii. He proved that in John 13:3-4
 - 1. Washing the disciple's feet
 - 2. Told us to do the same (Matt. 20:28)
 - 3. We are to be mutually serving one another
- c. Always ready
 - i. Not expecting him right away or at the last possible time
 - 1. The Romans divided the night into four watches
 - 2. 1st watch was 6-9 PM
 - a. If he came at this time, anyone would watch that long
 - 3. 4th watch was 3-6AM
 - a. If he came at this time the early birds would be awake anyway
 - 4. 2nd & 3rd watch was 9PM-3AM
 - a. It required real watching to be ready through the long dark middle hours of the night
 - ii. Blessed... blessed
 - 1. He emphasized this blessing

2. When we consider that He is speaking of Himself and the grateful blessing and honor He will personally give
3. We know that this is important to Him!

IV. The unprepared

- a. Like being robbed
- b. It only requires being unready for a moment
- c. We need to be prepared for two events with the same result
 - i. Our own death
 1. If Jesus does not come back before, we WILL die
 - a. We will end up meeting Jesus just as we would if He had come back
 - b. The time of our death is just as unknown and unknowable as the time of Jesus' return
 - c. We need to be ready
 2. The rotting bridge
 - a. Each time you cross it you get more confident
 - b. In reality it is that much closer to collapsing
 - ii. For Jesus return
 1. That is what this teaching is about
 2. The railroad bridge
 - a. February 2010:

MELBOURNE, Fla. (AP) — Three teenage girls were joking around and taking pictures on a narrow bridge in a Florida town when they were hit by a train, killing them as a friend watched helplessly, police and a witness said Sunday.

The girls and the fourth teenager, a boy, had been hanging out in Melbourne's downtown area — known for its shops and nightclubs — when they decided to cross the trestle around 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Lt. Curtis Barger said. Their parents had dropped them off at a mall, and then they took a bus downtown where they were "just goofing off," he said.

The boy yelled for the girls to run when he saw the train approach, then told them to jump, Barger said. Crane Creek, about 20 feet below the bridge, is slow-moving and about 10 feet deep. The girls did not have enough time.

Bruce Dumas, 53, said he was fishing in Crane Creek, about 20 feet under the bridge, when he saw the teens walk onto the trestle around sunset. He warned them to be careful, but he said they didn't pay much attention to him.

"You know how kids are," Dumas said. "They probably wanted pictures of themselves on the track."

The girls were about midway across when the train barreled down the tracks, blowing its whistle continuously, he said. Dumas said he could hear the sound of the brakes. After the impact, he heard a girl screaming and crying.

"I think the train was on them so fast they froze and didn't know what to do," Dumas said. "It's crazy to watch a young life snuffed out like that. They didn't have a chance to live yet."

SOURCE: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-02-21-train-girls-florida_N.htm

- b. What they did was illegal and dangerous, but it only was a few minutes of danger
 - i. However, the train could cross the whole bridge in seven seconds at normal speed
 - ii. And even with its brakes on, the teenagers had no chance to get out of its way before they were struck
 - c. How many times had they crossed the bridge and there was no train?
 - i. There never had been a train before
 - ii. But now there was
 - d. How often have we steep knowing and openly into sin?
 - i. Maybe it was only for a few minutes
 - ii. Maybe we made it right with God
 - iii. When we do that we take a dangerous risk
 - e. When Jesus comes back
 - i. It will be at a time that we do not expect
 - ii. It will be in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye
 - iii. If we are in the middle of trespassing the law of God on a bridge that we have sinfully crossed over and over again
 - iv. We will be unprepared
 - d. Compare with 1 Th. 4:13-5:11
- V. Conclusion
- a. Are You Ready?
 - b. Waiting for the Lord to Come?
 - c. INVITATION Get Ready!
 - i. Get dressed! Gal. 3:27 – baptized into Christ
 - ii. Keep your lamp lit!
 - iii. Be watchful!