**Getting Ready for the Master**

**The Word**

Read together Luke 12:35-48

**The Big Idea**

Jesus calls us to live our lives in light of his second coming. We are called to stay awake and to faithfully steward what he has entrusted to us until he returns.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. How did Sunday’s message add to your understanding of the return of Christ? And what further questions about his return did it raise?

2. On Sunday, we talked about some of the challenges this passage poses (see point III in the sermon outline below). What do you find most challenging about these ideas connected to Christ’s return and why?

3. On Sunday, we also talked about the good news of this passage (see point IV in the sermon outline below). How does this good news square with your current picture of Jesus and his return and life with him in eternity?

4. Consider this grid for making decisions mentioned on Sunday: “Would I want to be found doing this (e.g. saying this, watching this, buying this, etc.) at the return of Christ?” What does that question stir in you and why?

5. As you consider Jesus’ call to “stay awake” to the possibility of his return and to be a “faithful and wise manager” of what he’s given you responsibility over until he returns, is there any specific issue in your life that comes to the surface? Is there a specific way you want to respond in the coming weeks?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. The second coming of Christ

A. His second coming will involve a reckoning in which Jesus plays the role of judge for every human being

B. His second coming will involve putting all things right, new heavens and new earth in which there is no more death, pain, or mourning

II. Three Parables of living life in light of Jesus’ return

A. Servants waiting for their master’s return from a wedding feast (v. 35-38).

 1. His return might be delayed (v. 38)

2. They are to be awake, alert, dressed for service, and ready to welcome him home and serve him when he returns

 B. A thief breaking into a house (v. 39-40)

1. Like a thief in the night, Jesus will come at an unannounced and unexpected time

C. A servant whose master entrusts him with the care of the other servants until his return (v. 42-46)

1. He is to faithfully reflect the master’s authority and provide wise and faithful care of the other servants

 2. He is not to use his authority for selfish means (v. 45)

D. Consider this grid for making decisions: would I want to be found doing this at the return of Christ?

III. The challenges of these parables

 A. Our culture has a hard time waiting for anything (let alone waiting for 2000 years)

B. The image of a master and servants challenges our sense of autonomy and our desire to be the master of our own lives

C. The judgment inherent in these parables (see especially v. 46-47) is unsettling

D. The burden that comes with having been given much is challenging (v. 48)

IV. The good news of these parables

 A. The master is a servant (v. 37)

1. No first century master would come home and serve his servants, but that’s the kind of master Jesus is

 2. We have such a unique relationship with Jesus: he is both master and servant

3. Being a servant is not just something he did for 33 years on earth, but being a servant is who he is. So it’s interesting to consider the fact that he may even serve us someone at his second coming and into eternity

B. The master likes to entrust big things to his servants

1. He is not just looking for subjects to rule over. He’s looking for partners he can empower to work with him

2. This has always been God’s desire

a. Genesis 1:27-28: Image bearers who can rule his creation

b. Matthew 28:18-20: Disciples who can make disciples of all nations

c. Revelation 22:5: Partners who can rule over the new creation with him

V. What would it look like to live for the master’s pleasure: “Well done, good and faithful servant.” (Mt 25:21)