

“The Urgent Matter of Preparation”

Luke 12: 16 – 21

What does it mean to prepare? It is defined as “to make ready or suitable.” For what are we to prepare? Well, (Amos 4:12) gives some direction as the Lord God speaks, “Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel, and because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel. “These are not just words of direction for Israel, but for all people. The Apostle Paul shares similar words in (Romans 14: 12) as he says, “So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.” The problem with the man in the scripture lesson was simply that he prepared for the wrong thing. There are three questions that need to be answered concerning this matter of preparation and they each have to do with meeting God. The questions are ‘why’, ‘when’ and ‘how’ but some may say “I am not asking these questions.” That does not diminish each person’s responsibility to prepare.

“Why Prepare?” Because being unprepared we are separated from God and unworthy to stand before so great a God as we find in (2 Samuel 7: 22), “How great you are, O Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you, and there is no god but you, as we have heard with our own ears.” The Psalmist adds to that the words of (Psalm 104:1), “Praise the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty.” There is also the need to have our past sins confessed and forgiven and there is no hope or assurance for the future. (Matthew 24:44) has words of warning as he says, “So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” Why prepare? So that our eternal destiny is secured.

“When to Prepare?” **NOW!** We are told in (2 Corinthians 6:2b), “I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.” This is indeed an urgent matter as we see in (John 3:36), “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.” Everyone needs to be saved as the scripture says in (Romans 3:23), “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” That being the case, and today being the day of salvation, there is no better time, no more convenient time than now to prepare.

“How can we Prepare for This Meeting?” By repentance as we are told in (Luke 13: 3), “I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” To repent means to turn away from sin. This leads to faith in Jesus as our personal Savior and we see the truth in this in (Ephesians 2: 8 – 9), “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.” This then leads to faithful service to the Lord as He calls and enables each one to do his will.

Where are you in this matter of preparation? Where are you in relation to these three questions? Why? When? and How? This is truly an urgent matter and should not be put off or delayed.

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