

ActNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Connect Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Connect Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

Parables-Stewardship-Talents: Faithful and Unfaithful Servants

Luke 12:35-48

Rev Dr Chiang Ming Shun

SERMON SYNOPSIS

- Jesus taught that as His disciples, **we must be ready for His Return!** Why? Firstly, Jesus is Lord and He has taught so. And as we have chosen to follow Jesus, we heed and obey Him. Secondly, it is a certainty that He will return. Lastly, no one knows when that day will be. And so, we must be prepared and ready to meet and welcome King Jesus – at any time in the day or night – as He finally comes to reign in the fullness of His divinity, sovereignty, majesty, splendour, holiness, righteousness, justice & goodness for eternity!
- How are we then to prepare for Jesus' Return? **We will be ready by being faithful servants to Jesus our Master and King** from now until He comes again in the following three ways:

1) Practice Christlikeness

As disciples of Jesus, we grow to be like Him – increasingly taking on Christ's character which is described in Galatians 5:22–23, "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...*" As we decisively refuse to act on our human inclinations to God (*Eg. taking revenge, being inconsiderate towards others in our thoughts, actions and words, etc*), intentionally and willingly choose Christ and His ways, and then allow the Holy Spirit to transform us, we will become more like Christ each day. Our attitude, behaviour and speech will also reflect Christ's character. Hence, by putting off our human tendencies and putting on Christ daily, **we are faithfully practising Christlikeness** in the power and with the help of the Holy Spirit. (cf. Colossians 3:1-17).

2) Prepare for tribulation

In Matthew 24:6-10, Jesus Himself forewarned us that *there will be* trials and tribulations and these will intensify when His Return draws near. Hence, we are to *expect* wars, natural disasters, deception, false teaching and lawlessness to happen. With this mental awareness, we prepare ourselves by growing deeper *in love* with our Lord and *in our trust* in Him so that we can **endure to the end and be found faithful to Jesus amidst tribulation**, and not deny Christ nor compromise our faith & be found unfaithful to Jesus and His teachings.

3) Pursue your calling

Calling is much more than our vocation, work or church ministry. We are all called to love God to the utmost and to love our neighbour as ourselves. That is, to be Christian every day. Thus, **we will be Jesus' faithful servants by pursuing our calling to live as Christians, disciples of Jesus, & as children of God.** And as we faithfully live out our calling, God blesses us with a sense of purpose in life & the joy of living the best life we can ever live as we are doing a wonderful work for His Kingdom.

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- A concluding point to prepare for Jesus' Return is for each one to reflect this question, **"What legacy for the Lord do you want to leave behind?"** and to align your life and daily choices to please and glorify our Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

RELATE

1. What are some words we can use to describe "faithful"? (Eg. faithful spouse; faithful friend, faithful pet... etc).

REFLECT

2. It is interesting that "faithfulness" takes its meaning in the context of a relationship. Describe God's faithfulness toward us His people from the following Scripture passages. Next, take some time to reflect on your faithfulness toward the Lord, your God who saved you from sin & death out of His gracious love for you.

[Verses to help us go deeper: Lamentations 3:22-23 & Psalm 103.]

RESPOND

3. Share with your CG what specific way you are willing and resolute to grow as a faithful servant of Jesus and hence, be ready for Jesus' Return. When you next meet, be accountable to each other.

PRAYER POINTERS

- Ask the Lord to forgive you, your CG, TPMC as we have not been preparing ourselves nor being ready or longing for Jesus' Return.
- Pray to the Lord to make you, your CG, TPMC to be willing to become faithful servants of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.
- Thank God for His patience, grace and steadfast love as He keeps His faithfulness with us His people despite our unfaithfulness towards Him!

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON

"You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Luke 12:40