

031719.... Series Title: Until He Returns : *Things Jesus wants us to know* -Words of Warning (Stay Close to Me, Get Along, Do As You're Told)

Context...Jesus and his followers have been in a semi hostile environment...And Jesus has spent over half of the 12th chapter of Luke's Gospel reassuring and encouraging his disciples. saying things like in verse 4... "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more," and then in verse 22, Jesus says; "Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life," and again in verse 32, Jesus says; "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

We pick up the last part of his dialogue with Peter... we see that this discussion turns on onto Things Jesus wanted his disciples to know...which are actually words of warning... As he knew his disciples would experience delays, set backs, and disappointments and conflict...they needed to be warned to stay strong, and keep on serving, waiting and expecting the return of Jesus while letting their lights shine...and attitudes right...and do this until Jesus actually returns ..which could be anytime..or a long time...but none the less keep the faith...

LK 12: 35 "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him.

- **This is NOT a reference to the messianic banquet, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-9 ; Luke 14:15). That is to take place AFTER the coming of Christ and all the saints are to partake of it. Rather the wedding banquet in our passage just an element of the parable reflecting uncertain length; **it indicates that the master is relatively close by and can return at any time.****
- **So...Jesus sets the scene: a master has gone to a wedding banquet and his servants are waiting up for him, even though he is delayed. The image seems to come from the a rich household, perhaps Roman, where slaves are expected to anticipate their master's wishes.**
- **The word "**master**" is one who is in charge by virtue of possession, '**owner**' "**
- **The disciples, Jesus says, are to be dressed and ready, just like the servants in the household of a master who is expected momentarily.**
- **Run around and delay opening the door for him...because were trying to straighten up the mess we made....catch up on the work we should have done...get our attitude right...**

*****Here is the key... They are specifically commanded not to consider themselves off duty, but on duty at all times and in all situations...*****

WHY?? BECAUSE HE IS COMING ... WE JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN...SO WE SERVE AND WATCH OUR LIVES ON DUTY...UNTIL HE COMES AND AMAZINGLY WHEN HE COMES HE WILL SERVE US...THE MASTER SERVING THE SERVANT...

So what this means is...I must persevere in my faith in Jesus between the beginning and the end... another words... in my living ...IN MY WORDS AND IN MY WORK AND MINISSTRY...UNTIL THE TIME HE COMES...

THIS IS THE ISSUE....TIMING...keep servingkeep waiting... keep pace...The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking places.

Perseverance is the enemy of Discouragement... And discouragement is the enemy of PerseverancePerseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did. Or as the French proverb says... One may go a long way after one is tired.

So...it will be good for those who operate this way

Luke 12:³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.

when discouraged ...Trust his Word...

Luke 12:³⁸ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak.

- **do not get lazy...be on observant and on guard always**
- **and he gives a reverse example..**

³⁹ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

- **if the owner knows when his house will be broken into ...he will prepare for that...but if he does not know...he will stay prepared..**
- **Then he tells his disciples have that same attitude...about their death and his coming**

⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” ⁴¹ Peter asked, “Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?”

- His answer is I AM TELLING IT TO YOU... Peter and the disciples ...to be wise managers...not only are you to wait for me expectantly...you are to take care of my other servants..

⁴² The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? ⁴³ It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. ⁴⁴ Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

- you do not know when God is going to ask us to give an account of our life...
- But when he does...If I find you about my business when I return...you will be richly rewarded!!
- but on the flip side..you abuse the position ...you will be under judgment...because you know the Lord and his command....

⁴⁵ But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk.

- Why would a servant manager of God do that??? He get tired of waiting and tired of serving... disappointed in the delay , resentful of the labor...tired of doing good...rewards himself...and uses the people rather than serve them...

He is a hypocrite! professing and teaching one thing and doing another to God's people ...highly damaging... Hypocrisy with a Halo

- The main task of a moral commentator/parent/religious leader/authority figure is to influence people to do things that often contradict their fleshly desires, so...the indication of a double standard destroys the message.

Now remember he is talking to Peter and the disciples...but he is referring to the Pharisees the religious leaders who have been mad dogging Jesus...

which takes us back to the beginning of the chapter...

LK 12: 12 Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be on your

guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. ² There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.

hypocrite: The word hypocrisy comes from the Greek theatre: literally it means to Act (krinomai) from under and (hypo) a mask... play acting on purpose...

Hypocrisy is their yeast...it is what Jesus despised about the Pharisees and teachers of the Law...they appeared Holy, they appeared to know God and care for people but in reality it was play acting ...and Jesus called them on it... he knew their hearts were evil but there acting was righteous...

- They played spiritual leader...but their hearts were far from it..
- **but Judgment comes... IN THE FORM OF Jesus and they were not expecting Jesus..**

⁴⁶ The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.⁴⁷ “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.

Because they profess to know AND SERVE the Master...but do not KNOW NOR SERVE HIM..they receive the blows of judgment.. WHY PLACED WITH THE UNBELIEVERS? BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT BELIEVERS..

bUT AS HE SHARES WITH PETER AND THE DISCIPLES...THERE WILL BE LEADERS WHO ARE HYPOCRITES...AND DON'T REALLY SEE IT...

⁴⁸ But the one who does not know and does things **deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows.** From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

HE IN A SENSE IS WARNING PETER...THIS IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU BROTHER...EVEN AFTER I HAVE ENTRUSTED YOU WITH MUCH...

context...years later Peter was praying one day and God showed him a vision..of a sheet with all kinds of animals..animals that would be considered unclean by a Jew...yet God told him to eat them....receive them to himself...he said so...this went on three times..until God told him

^{Acts 10:15} The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”

a gentile named Cornelius a Roman Centurion shows up tells Peter God gave him a vision to find Peter and bring him home and listen to what he says...so Peter goes..they hear the word the spirit comes upon them...Peter is blown away...

AC 10:34 **Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism(you would think he would have got that) ³⁵ but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.**

- **He now Realizes this? He has been with Jesus about three years...seen him heal all kinds of People...now gets that he loves everybody?**
- **so he eats and prays and stays with Gentiles...Until...**

AC 11:1 *The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him ³ and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."*

- Peter, and Barnabas freely ate with the Gentiles...but when some homies came up to see them...Peter and Barnabas...separated themselves from them and started following the standards they stated were no longer valid...
- God does not show favoritism... but people sure can...and that is exactly what Peter is doing ...showing favoritism to the Jews...he is being hypocritical.
- Although Peter was a leader of the church, **he was acting like a hypocrite.**
- He knew better, yet he was driven by fear of what James and the others would think.
- **Fear of People...was a thorn in Peter's side...**
- **There is nothing we deal with now... we have not dealt with before...**
- **Paul knew that he had to confront Peter before his actions damaged the church. So, Paul publicly opposed Peter.**
- **Paul is not having it! and strikes him with a few blows..**

GAL 2:11 *When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. ¹² Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³ **The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.***

- **you are being a hypocrite..which is causing you to obey the Gospel...the very thing you have preached about and believed..**

GAL 2:14 When I saw that they were not acting *in line with the truth of the gospel*, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

- he opposed Peter face to face. Sometimes sincere Christians, even Christian leaders, make mistakes.
- And it may take other sincere Spirit led Christians to get them back on track.
- If you are convinced that someone is doing harm to himself/herself or the church, try the direct approach.
- There is no place for backstabbing in the body of Christ.
- What got him through??? the Spirit kept bringing him back..... even when he messed up...he always returned to Jesus....
- *Bottom line the more you have been entrusted with the more you will be held responsible for...*

And Micah tell us the most important...

MIC 6:8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

I love verses that simplify spirituality, don't you? I wonder, how many of us would list those four as our foremost beloved Christian responsibilities?

- **Is it not more likely that church attendance, personal devotion time, Bible study, prayer, would be highest on some of our Christian responsibility lists?**
- **Notice that those are all things we can "check off our list" as being a good Christian ...**
- **whereas justice, mercy, humility and faithfulness are things that we must strive to walk in continually.**

end

- **but those SERVANTS who don't know AND ARE HYPOCRITES.....receive the blows of correction...**
- *Bottom line the more you have been entrusted with the more you will be held responsible for...*

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- **Now Jesus changes direction and states that his ministry will also cause seperation.**

*LK 12: 49 "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!
50 But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed!*

- **Don't think I came to smooth things over and make everything nice? Not so. I've come to bring fire from heaven... that he came to bring fire to the earth...**
- **He was talking about bringing judgment--not the judgment of others but rather His own judgment.**
- **It is a judgment that the Messiah will bear for others, not one He will inflict on others. "I've come to start a fire on this earth -- how I wish it were blazing right now! I've come to change everything, turn everything right-side up -- how I long for it to be finished!**
- **The fire will, create a burning enthusiasm among some and introduce the Holy Spirit to them..and and fire will create fierce antagonism among others, and the sooner kindled, the better.**

Luke 12: 51 Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.

- **He insists that he will not bring peace. Instead, his ministry will bring division ...separation must occur... For his followers they will change...and some people will not embrace the new you...**

Any family that is divided by an issue will suffer some sort of agony, and the agony is destructive unless it is caused by someone choosing a better way. The virtue of suffering is determined by the merits of the cause of the suffering.

Luke 12: ⁵² From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

The picture is of a family of five: father, mother, daughter, son, and son's wife. The mother and the mother-in-law are the same person. The son's wife has come to live with the family.

- There is a difficulty that will arise when one chooses loyalty to Jesus... this hostility will be because they do not regard Jesus...who he is and what he represents... the same as you...**so the man or woman worthy of following Jesus will consider this part of the cost...it divides because it is serious business...**
- Jesus experienced it his followers will experience it...**God is the one who deserves and demands our highest allegiance...**

Remember...There is a peace promised beyond the challenge of following Jesus; a united family beyond any division that faith may have caused or bring.

Finally words of encouragement...

LK 18:28 Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!" LK 18:29 "I tell you the truth," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God ³⁰ will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life

- **Our time on this earth is limited and therefore precious. It would be a shame to allow time to pass without seriously considering information of potential importance to eternal destiny, particularly if that information is verifiable yet different from what we currently believe.**
- **The answer repent...and produce actions in accordance to that...**
- **May the roots of our mind and heart be soft to embrace the nourishment...brought by the weather and season we are in...**

So the solution...

LK 12: 36 like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. 37 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes.

- **Run around and delay opening the door for him...because were trying to straighten up the mess we made....catch up on the work we should have done...get our attitude right...**
- **end**

hypocrite:

- The word hypocrisy comes from the Greek theatre: literally it means to Act (*krinomai*) from under and (*hypo*) a mask... play acting on purpose...

the Lord PUT IT THIS WAY:

MT 23:23 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. 24 You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

- It is a bad symptom of anyone's state of soul when he begins to put secondary things in religion in the first place, and the first things in second place...or when he puts the things ordained by men in front of things ordained by God.

Their self righteousness was hypocritical..for what they claimed as God's law ...was merely their own.

- So lets see what Jesus said...

MT 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness **surpasses that** of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

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- **Now he turns to the crowd...**

Luke 12:54 He said to the **crowd**: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. ⁵⁵ And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. ⁵⁶ Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?"

- **Jesus resorts to a weather analogy to try and shake the listening crowd out of its sleepy-headedness, out of its Pharisaic-influenced hypocrisy. Knowing how to read weather patterns and signs was more than a convenient source of small talk for the rural populations perched at various outposts in Palestine's outback.**
- **Clouds from the west over Mediterranean Sea...indicate rain storms are approaching ...which could trigger catastrophic and almost instantaneous flash floods through dry desert canyons. Or Winds across the Galilean sea could whip up towers of waves, transforming the usually tranquil waters into a drowning pool if not the perfect storm.**
- **A wind from the south would come blowing up from the barren Negev, bringing scorching heat in its breath. Or devastating sand storms form the Arabian desert...**
- **Death at the hands of fickle, freakish weather was always a possibility. That's why knowing how to interpret the earth and the sky were life and death skills.**

If people are able to discern weather patterns from such obvious signs, Jesus points out, then why can't they perceive the significance of the "present time"?

Why can't they read the 'signs of the times'? **because they are in denial...denial is saying something is not true despite overwhelming evidence...** Jesus chides his listeners for being so dense and oblivious it was as though they were standing in the middle of a cloudburst and wondering why in the world they were getting wet.

It was precisely this "weather in their midst" that the crowd thronging Jesus was pretending to not get....

The weather surrounding them was the spiritually charged atmosphere created by Jesus' presence and electrified by his words. If they really knew the weather, their hair would have been standing on end, their ears ringing. Yet they feel and hear nothing.

- Jesus has little patience with the crowd, branding them hypocrites. Such an accusation would indicate that Jesus suspected that they knew the truth and pretended not to understand its implications.
- They would rather deny what they know in their hearts than answer the call of God.

Jesus' point is that when we choose to be blind to a reality that presents itself in a multitude of ways, we bring judgment upon ourselves...

- Our time on this earth is limited and therefore precious. It would be a shame to allow time to pass without seriously considering information of potential importance to eternal destiny, particularly if that information is verifiable yet different from what we currently believe.
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- end

Jesus tells them a story to emphasize his message..

LK 12: 57 “Why don’t you judge for yourselves what is right? 58 As you are going with your adversary to the magistrate, try hard to be reconciled on the way, or your adversary may drag you off to the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. 59 I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.”

The scenario...if your going to court and you know you are in the wrong...or most likely going to lose the case...

- **A wise person would do all they could to minimize loss and try to settle before they face the judge...and there is a judgment coming...**
- **This person would read the sign of the times right...**
- **Well if the Messiah who you have been waiting for appears...you would be wise to get right with him...and not wait until you were at the judgment seat....**

- **Our time on this earth is limited and therefore precious. It would be a shame to allow time to pass without seriously considering information of potential importance to eternal destiny, particularly if that information is verifiable yet different from what we currently believe.**
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There are times when separation must take precedent over relational loyalty...

*JOS 24:14 "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. 15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves **this day** whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."*