

Life of Christ – Return of Luke 12:35-48

Introduction:

For the past several weeks, we have been looking at the life of Christ. We have noticed His birth, ministry, death, and resurrection from the dead. Today, we conclude this series of lessons by looking at His return.

I. We know that Jesus is going to return.

- A. It is important for us to understand exactly what we mean when we say that Jesus is coming again.
 - 1. We do not mean that Jesus will again walk on the face of the earth as He did in the first century.
 - 2. There is no indication in the Scriptures that this will happen.
 - 3. When we say that Jesus will return, we mean that He will appear again to all the world.
 - a. It is at this time that the world will be destroyed.
 - b. It is also at that time that the faithful will live eternally with Him.
- B. It is prophesied throughout the Scriptures.
 - 1. Jesus Himself told us that He would return.
 - a. **Mt. 26:64** (speaking to Pilate) - **Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."**
 - b. **Jn. 21:22** (to Peter, referring to John) - **Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."**
 - c. **Jn. 14:2-3** - **I go to prepare a place for you. {3} And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.**
 - 2. It is also told by others that Jesus is going to return.
 - a. **Acts 1:10-11** - **And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, {11} who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."**
 - b. **Heb. 9:28** - **To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.**
 - c. We will be looking at many passages throughout this lesson that indicate the fact that Jesus is coming again.
- C. We also know that His coming is near.
 - 1. **Heb. 10:36-37** - **For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: {37} "For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry."**

2. **Js. 5:8** - You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
 3. **Rev. 22:20** - He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!
- D. We even see the implication of the return of Christ in the Lord's Supper.
1. **I Cor. 11:26** - For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.
 2. While we partake of the Lord's Supper, we are not to think about His return; but rather we think of His death.
 3. However, we are to partake of this Supper "till He comes."

II. We also know the purpose of His coming.

- A. Notice two parables of Jesus that help us to understand what will happen at the end of time (time will not permit us to look at all instances in Scripture of what will happen at the end of the world).
1. The Parable of the Wheat and Tares (**13:24-30, 36-43**).
 2. The Parable of the Dragnet (**13:47-50**).
- B. In each parable, we are told of a great separation that will occur at His coming.
1. The good will be separated from the wicked.
 2. This separation will be an eternal separation.
- C. It is at His coming that He will reward the righteous.
1. **Lk. 12:41-44** - Then Peter said to Him, "Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people?" {42} And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? {43} Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. {44} Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has."
 2. **Col. 3:4** - When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.
 3. **II Tim. 4:8** - Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.
- D. Those who are evil (unfaithful to God) will live eternally in hell.
1. **Lk. 12:45-48** - But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, {46} the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. {47} And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. {48} But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

2. **II Thes. 1:6-10** - It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, {7} and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, {8} in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. {9} These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, {10} when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

III. Therefore, because we know that He is coming and His purpose in coming, we must be prepared.

A. We do not know when He will return.

1. **Mt. 24:36-44** - “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. {37} But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. {38} For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, {39} and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. {40} Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. {41} Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. {42} Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. {43} But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. {44} Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”
2. **Mt. 25:13** - Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.
3. **I Thes. 5:1-4** - But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. {2} For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. {3} For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. {4} But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.
4. **II Pet. 3:10** - But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

B. Because we do not know when He will return, we should be prepared at all times.

1. **Lk. 12:35-40** - “Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; {36} and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may

open to him immediately. {37} Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. {38} And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. {39} But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. {40} Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

2. **I Jn. 2:28** - And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Conclusion:

We know that Jesus is going to return to this earth. We know that when He does, He is going to separate the good from the evil (the faithful from the unfaithful). Those who are faithful will receive that eternal home with the Father. Those who are not faithful will receive that eternal home in hell.

The good news is that we determine where we will spend eternity. God has already paid the price for our salvation through the blood of His Son. It is up to us to be faithful to His commands, knowing that if we are faithful, we will receive that eternal home with the Father.

Today, are you ready for the coming of the Lord?