

Why Should I?  
“Why Should I Serve?”

**Introduction:** Thus far have we discussed why we should be a member and why we should be baptized.

**Today:** Why we should serve

**NOTE:** May seem strange to read a text about the coming of the Lord when talking about serving

But...precisely the MAIN reason we should be serving

Other Important Reasons:

✓ Reason we were created

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10 NKJV*

✓ Combats our natural self-centeredness

*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4 NKJV*

✓ Utilizes the spiritual gifts God has given us

*As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11 NKJV*

✓ Love for others

*For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:13-14 NKJV*

### Wrong Reasons to Serve:

- ✓ Guilt
- ✓ Personal satisfaction
- ✓ To please people
- ✓ Pride
- ✓ Reward

### Some Reasons People Don't Serve

- ✓ Too busy
- ✓ Bad past experience
- ✓ Too many family pressures
- ✓ Don't want to be tied down
- ✓ Don't know what there is to do
- ✓ Feel unqualified
- ✓ Never asked
- ✓ Already served their time
- ✓ Fear of failure

Thesis: The imminent return of Christ is the primary reason why we should be busy serving!

### Our Text (Makes 3 assertions)

#### 1. The time of Christ's coming is unknown (36)

- a. Angels not so surprising (1 Peter 1:12-long to look into salvation-some divine secrecy)
- b. The son's ignorance is somewhat astonishing
- c. Prohibits signs/charts/formulas/popular writings

#### 2. People will be caught unaware (37-41)

- a. Like Noah (universal-implications, sudden onset, only advance preparation will save)
- b. Normal life continues (eating, drinking, marrying)
- c. Grinding grain at the mill-all part of ongoing life
- d. Different fates for different people

#### 3. In light of these-must be ready!

To explain readiness-3 consecutive parable (24:45-51; 25:1-13; 25:14-30) 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>-then second!

## I. Readiness is Active INVOLVEMENT in the King's Business.

*"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. 47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. 48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, 51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 24:45-51 NKJV*

NOTE: Readiness in this parable is NOT sitting by the window waiting for the return of the master, but getting on with the job he has been given.

### A. Subject of stewardship-put in charge while the master is gone

1. Steward of the Gospel
2. Steward of resources
3. Steward of time
4. Steward of gifts

### B. Good steward who is found working when the master returns in honored/rewarded

### C. Bad (evil) servant has different idea

1. No expectation
2. Slothful, foolish, selfish while the master is gone
3. Is not working

### D. Unexpected return will lead to great heartache and judgment for him

## READINESS IS ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THE KING'S BUSINESS

## II. Readiness is Active INVESTMENT in the King's Business

*"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' 21 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' 23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' 26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' Matthew 25:14-30 NKJV*

NOTE: Very similar to first parable but not just involvement—investment

### A. Like the first parable-focus is on the servants of the master while he is gone

1. Will be the servant's responsibility to make the most of what is given to them
2. All are different-different gifts, treasure, resources given to different people
3. Use what he has-don't envy another

### B. Different approaches

1. Enthusiastic discipleship by one with 5 and 2-use it, invest it
2. One with one talent buries it!

### C. Delay did not mean no accounting (19)

### D. Two faithful servants who invested are honored/rewarded

### E. The one with one talent did nothing (self-preservation) knew master was harsh-buried it

### F. Failure to invest by using what he'd been given meant he was unready for the master's return

G. Self-serving rather than investing in others is not the posture of those ready for the return of Christ

## READINESS IS ACTIVE INVESTMENT IN THE KING'S BUSINESS

### III. Readiness is Active INTIMACY in the King's Business

*"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Matthew 25:1-12 NKJV*

A. Wedding is part of social life—who is and is not invited is a big deal

B. Virgins—unmarried friends or relatives of the couple

1. Role was to accompany bridegroom in a torchlight procession to his house
2. But, not present at part of the ceremony that preceded procession
3. After the procession is the wedding feast in the bridegroom's house

C. Their downfall was not sleeping—they all slept!

1. Poor preparedness before they slept (portable torches, cloth bundles, dipped in oil)
2. Lack of oil/weren't ready—torch without oil was useless
3. Readiness could not be achieved in a last minute adjustment—long term provision

D. The verdict?—I don't know you! Others could not provide it for them—LEFT OUT/NOT READY

**Conclusion:** Why should I serve?

Jesus is coming back (not hiding, counting, speculating)

1. Serving is the appropriate posture of a life passionately involved in the work of the Lord as the coming of the King approaches

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV*

2. Serving is the proper response of a life committed to investing in the Kingdom until the King returns

*I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:8 NKJV*

3. Serving is the natural outflow of a life intimately connected to the coming King

*So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. John 13:12-17 NKJV*

NOTE: Picking up the towel till He returns

(ILL) *I love God—I just don't like the church is like saying, I like that man; I just don't like his wife. We must be careful not to offend God by offending His bride—the church.*