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Ask the bigger questions

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Accountability

A cost benefit analysis of following Jesus:

What does Jesus require of me? Is it worth it?

- Session 4

The passage to be looked at in this session deals with the “return” of Jesus.

Here’s some information about the return of Jesus that you might find helpful to know:

- The Bible doesn’t say when it will be
- The Bible says be prepared for it (how to be prepared is in the passage below)
- When Jesus returns it will be in power and glory (unlike his first entry as a baby born in a backwater of the Roman Empire)
- When Jesus returns everyone will acknowledge him as king (either willingly or unwillingly bowing the knee)
- Jesus will judge both believers and unbelievers
- Jesus will judge both the living and the dead
- All opposition to Jesus’ rule will be quashed
- The earth will be transformed (God/Jesus will rule on earth like they do in heaven and the new “earth” will only be a great place to live).

Followers of Jesus live between two key events – the death/resurrection of Jesus and the “return” of Jesus. Both of these two key events will shape/impact how followers of Jesus live now.

The words of Jesus in Luke 12:35-48

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. 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. 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. 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. 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?”

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. 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. 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. 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.

Jesus is not just interested in exploring relations between first century masters and their servants. He is speaking in two parables to make two main points about what discipleship (being servants of Jesus) is like. (Note: Parables generally have one main teaching point, so the idea is not to press the details too much).

**Q1. What do you think is the gist of the first parable in verses 35-40?
(Note: The "Son of Man" reference is the way that Jesus refers to himself.)**

Q2. In verse 37, is Jesus saying there is a reward for good behaviour?

Q3. What is the gist of the second parable in verses 42-48?

The death of Jesus in Luke 23:38-43

38 There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Q4. What gets you entry into heaven?

**Q5. What if someone isn't ready to make the decision to become a disciple?
(verses 47-48)**

Q6. How do you feel after reading this passage?

Published 21 October 2014
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