

*Series:* Surprising Words from Jesus about Being a Disciple;

*Sermon:* **The Unexpected Return**; *Date:* **July 24, 2016**

*Delivered by:* **Rev. Tommy Johnston**, junior high pastor

***Bible text explored: Luke 12:35–48***

<sup>35</sup>“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup>and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! <sup>39</sup>But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

<sup>41</sup>Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?” <sup>42</sup>And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? <sup>43</sup>Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. <sup>44</sup>Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. <sup>45</sup>But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, <sup>46</sup>the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. <sup>47</sup>And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. <sup>48</sup>But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more. [ESV]

***Review and application:***

1. Is our earthly life circular (endlessly repeating) or linear (moving toward a final conclusion)? (See Rev. 22:12-13.)
2. Yes, we believe in Christ's Second Coming. But do we assume it is some years away or keep reminding ourselves it could be just around the corner?
3. What does Jesus' first parable about servants waiting for their master's return (vv. 35-38, above) suggest will qualify them for being blessed?  
What (v. 37) Last Supper-like role reversal does Jesus predict awaits his joyful servants?
4. What does Jesus' second parable (vv. 39-40), about being prepared to repulse a robber, tell us about alertness?  
What steps—Pastor Johnston suggested several—can we take to make sure we're not caught unprepared for the Second Coming?
5. How does Jesus' third parable (vv. 42-48) indirectly answer Peter's question (in v. 41)?
6. As a servant-manager, with what have you been entrusted?  
If you are faithfully following your Master's agenda (rather than your own), why can you be confident that any promotion or discipline will be fair?  
(See also Heb. 6:1-12 and Phil. 3:14.)