

Are You Ready?

Because it's been a long time in since our last game (June 21st), I want to quickly refresh everyone's memory of the topics/lessons that we have covered thus far:

- 1) **Are You Wasting Your Life?** (Cornerstone vs. Paladins – May 31st, 2008 @ 4 PM)
 - [The Parable of the Rich Fool \(Luke 12: 15-21\)](#);
 - “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (v15)
 - The Meaning of life = Salvation from sins through faith in Jesus Christ! Seeking to Glorify God!
 - [The Parable of the Hidden Treasure \(Matthew 13:44\)](#); [The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value \(Matthew 13:45-46\)](#)
 - Seeking after this great treasure and meaning of life, the secrets/mysteries of the kingdom of heaven/God with conviction
- 2) **What Type of Seed Are You?** (Cornerstone vs. Archangels – June 7th, 2008 @ 4 PM)
 - ⇒ **What Type of Soil Are You?** (Cornerstone vs. Witness – June 21st, 2008 @ 2 PM) ⇐ **Correction**
 - [The Parable of the Sower \(Matthew 13:1-9\)](#); [The Parable of the Sower Explained \(Matthew 13:18-23\)](#)
 - 1) Along The Path ⇒ birds devoured (indifferent hearts, without understanding)
 - 2) On Rocky Ground ⇒ sun scorched (no roots)
 - 3) Among Thorns ⇒ thorns choked (cares for the worldly things)
 - 4) On Good Soil ⇒ bears fruit for the Lord (hears the Word & understands it)
 - How receptive is your heart to the gospel? Do you need to change your heart and attitude towards God?
 - Let us all strive to be that good soil, so that the Lord can work His will in our lives.
- 3) **Weeds vs. Wheat** (Cornerstone vs. Witness – June 21st, 2008 @ 2 PM)
 - [The Parable of the Weeds \(Matthew 13:24-30\)](#); [The Parable of the Weeds Explained \(Matthew 13:37-43\)](#)
 - Are you wheat-like **weed** that will be thrown into the fiery furnace, “In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 13:42b)
 - Or are you **wheat** (Christian)? For those of you who are Christians, let us strive to learn and apply the great teachings in the Bible, the Word of God, so that we will be knowledgeable and mature Christians who are not naïve or easily tricked by false, deceptive teachings.
- 4) **Why Did Jesus Speak in Parables?** (Cornerstone practice – July 13th, 2008)
 - [The Purpose of the Parables \(Matthew 13:10-16\)](#)
 - “...hear but never understand, ...hear but never understand, ...
 - ¹⁴Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah [Isai 6:9-10] is fulfilled that says: ^d “ ‘You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. ¹⁵For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears ^ethey can barely hear, and ^ftheir eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and ^gunderstand with their heart and ^hturn, and I would heal them.’ (Matthew 13:14-15)
 - “**He who has ears, let him hear.**” (Matthew 13:9,48b)
 - Let us be attentive to the teachings in the Word of God (Bible) through parables – to the Lord’s prompting of our hearts to turn from our sinful nature – before we become indifferent towards God and allow our hearts to grow dull and hardened towards God and His promises.
 - Let me encourage you with Jim Elliot’s wise words, “**He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.**”¹

Keeping these lessons in mind, I want to now challenge everyone to be watchful and ready at all times for Jesus Christ’s return. We need to be prepared for when we come face to face with Jesus Christ to give an account for our actions and how we have lived our lives. This may be at Jesus Christ's second coming or when we pass on and come face to face with Him.

To help us understand the importance of being ready (or watchful), let us read the lesson that Jesus Christ gives in the Gospel of Luke in the Bible. For those of you with your Bible please turn with me to Luke 12:35-48.

d John 12:40; Acts 28:26, 27; Cited from Isai. 6:9, 10

e [Heb. 5:11]

f [John 9:39, 41]

g [Rom. 10:10]

h See Luke 22:32

¹ Jim Elliot’s journal (1927 - 1956, 29-yr), a modern martyr, gained international recognition when he died with four others at the hands of Auca Indians. His story and memoirs have become a source of missionary inspiration through the writing and speaking of his wife, Elisabeth.

Are You Ready?

You Must Be Ready (Luke 12:35-48) [Watchfulness – NIV]

^{35a} “Stay dressed for action⁴ and keep your lamps burning,³⁶ 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.³⁷ “Blessed are those servants⁵ whom the master finds awake⁶ 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.³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!³⁹ ^hBut know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hourⁱ the thief was coming, he⁶ would not have left his house to be broken into. **40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**”

⁴¹ Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?” ⁴² 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? ⁴³ “Blessed is that servant⁷ whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁴ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁵ 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, **46 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.** ⁴⁷ 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. ⁴⁸ 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.**

‘Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning’ signifies being prepared and ready. I think it is important to also note that Jesus calls us to be proactive here and not passive. We need to be preparing our hearts and mind as it is written in 1 Peter 1:13,¹³ **Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.** How does someone prepare his/her mind? With knowledge, understanding and wisdom! Now the key question is where and how do we obtain this knowledge, understanding and wisdom? This is knowledge, understanding and wisdom that can only be obtained through the revelation of Jesus Christ and through scripture, the Bible, which ¹⁶...is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.⁹ (2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV). We must be ready, for none of us know when we will see Jesus Christ.

For those of us who claim to be Christians, let me remind you not to be complacent, for **“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.”** (Luke 12:48b). These are words from God Himself, and should not to be taken lightly.

Lessons/Applications:

- Are we ready for when we come face to face with Jesus Christ, when we have to give an account for how we have lived our lives?
 - I challenge each of you to strive to be ready for that day and not to passively sit back and watch things go by.
 - 1) For those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, this means striving to glorify God in all that we do; living a Christ-centered life.

a [Eph. 6:14] ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

[1 Pet. 1:13] ¹³Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

4 Greek *Let your loins stay girded*; compare [Ex 12:11] ¹¹In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. Speaks of preparedness.

c [2 Pet. 3:12a] ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God

e See [Matt. 24:42, 46] ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming...⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

5 Greek *bondservants*

⁶ [Matthew 12:37a – NIV] ³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them **watching** when he comes.

h For ver. 39-46, [Matt. 24:43-51]; No One Knows That Day and Hour [Matthew 24:36-51]

i [1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:10; Rev. 3:3]

6 Some manuscripts add *would have stayed awake and*

n [1 Pet. 4:10-11] ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

o [John 13:17] ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

[Rev. 16:15] ¹⁵ (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”)

7 Greek *bondservant*; also verses 45, 46, 47

p Matt. 25:21, 23

⁹ [2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV] ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Are You Ready?

- 2) For those of you who are still seeking answers (**non-Christians**) – not knowing God and the true joy of being a Christian, a part of God’s family – I **urge** you to find out more about what it means to be a Christian and to seek out the answers to the questions you have about Christianity. What an **amazing investment** of your time and energy if it leads to obtaining the most precious, and valuable treasure in life!

➤ **Let use all strive to be ready for that day!**

Additional Notes

Called to Be Holy (1 Peter 1:13-16)

¹³Therefore, ^gpreparing your minds for action, ^land ^hbeing sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴As obedient children, ⁱdo not be conformed to the passions ^jof your former ignorance, ¹⁵but ^kas he who called you is holy, you also be holy ^lin all your conduct, ¹⁶since it is written, ^m“You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Do Not Be Anxious (Luke 12:22-29)

²²And he said to his disciples, ^f“Therefore I tell you, ^gdo not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴^hConsider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. ⁱOf how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his ^jspan of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²yet I tell you, ^keven Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, ^lO you of little faith! ²⁹And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor ^mbe worried. ³⁰For ⁿall the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, ^oseek ^phis ³kingdom, ^qand these things will be added to you.

³²^r“Fear not, little ^sflock, for ^tit is your Father’s good pleasure to give you ^uthe kingdom. ³³^vSell your possessions, and ^wgive to the needy. ^xProvide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with ^ya treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴^zFor where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

g See Luke 12:35

l Greek *girding up the loins of your mind*

h ch. 4:7; 5:8; 1 Thess. 5:6, 8; 2 Tim. 4:5

i ch. 4:2, 3; Rom. 12:2; Tit. 3:3

j Acts 17:30

k 1 John 3:3; [2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Thess. 4:7; Heb. 12:14]

l James 3:13

m Cited from Lev. 11:44

f For ver. 22-31, see Matt. 6:25-33

g ver. 11; ch. 10:41; Matt. 10:19; 13:22 (Gk.); 1 Cor. 7:32 (Gk.); Phil. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:7

h [Job 38:41; Ps. 147:9]

i See ver. 7

j ch. 2:52

l Or *a single cubit to his stature*; a cubit was about 18 inches or 45 centimeters

2 Some manuscripts *Consider the lilies; they neither spin nor weave*

k 1 Kin. 10:4-7

l Matt. 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; [ch. 17:6]

m [James 1:6]

n Matt. 6:8

o [Matt. 5:6, 20]

p ch. 11:2

3 Some manuscripts *God’s*

q [1 Kin. 3:11-14; Mark 10:29, 30; 1 Tim. 4:8; 1 Pet. 3:9]

r Isai. 41:14; 44:2

s Isai. 40:11; Matt. 26:31; John 10:16; 21:15-17; Acts 20:28, 29; 1 Pet. 5:2, 3

t [ch. 10:21; Matt. 11:26; Eph. 1:5, 9; Phil. 2:13]

u ch. 22:29; See Matt. 13:19

v See Matt. 19:21

w ch. 11:41

x [ch. 16:9]

y Matt. 6:20; [ver. 21; 1 Pet. 1:4]

z Matt. 6:21