

More than an 8-Minute Job
Matthew 24:42-51

Jesus told 3 parables in Matt 24:42-51 to illustrate the importance of our _____ to the work of the kingdom while they waited for Him to come back.

The text begins with a command: “Keep watch.” The idea is to “be on _____;” to be aware that this world is potentially _____ to you. Jesus knew this world in which we are immersed can smell sweet, but it can put you to _____—even kill you. So, you had better keep watch, stay awake and alert.

But the watchfulness about which Jesus challenges us is more than just being on guard for the dangers around us. It is also about watchfulness for the _____ of the Master. His next parable was of a faithful servant who _____ the duties that his master has given him, regardless of length of his master’s _____. As a result, he is rewarded. We don’t fully understand heavenly rewards, but what we know is that our Heavenly Father gives _____ gifts.

The parable illustrates Jesus’ definition of watchfulness. It is faithfully _____. His _____, aware that He may return any _____. Watchfulness is more about watching _____ than watching for Him.

The last parable is of a servant who _____ upon the delay of his master, not only failing to discharge his duties but even working in _____ to the wishes of the master. The punishment is devastating. This punishment is not to be misconstrued as a warning about a believer _____ his or her salvation. Just as the gift of salvation cannot be earned as a reward, it cannot be _____ as a punishment for misbehavior. This servant was a hypocrite. He claimed to be a servant of the master but was not, and his failure to do the master’s _____ was the _____.

Getting ready—watchfulness for Jesus’ return—is not an 8-minute job. It involves _____ Him as Savior and then remaining diligent in His _____ till He comes.