



March 7, 2021

“Get Ready ‘cause Here I Come” Part 1 of 3

Matthew 24:45-51

Pastor Gary Hamrick

The Bible teaches that Jesus is coming again! In fact, there are almost three times as many prophecies predicting the Second Coming of Christ as there were prophecies predicting his First Coming. In Matthew 24:44, Jesus exhorted us to be ready for his Second Coming. Since we don’t know when Jesus will return, we need to watch and wait patiently. In Matthew 24-25, Jesus taught three parables that help us get ready and be ready for his Second Coming, and the first is the focus of Pastor Gary’s message today.

1. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ
 - a. There are approximately one thousand prophecies in the Bible concerning the Second Coming of Christ.
 - b. The Bible answers five of the six questions that every news story should include: “Who? What? Where? How? Why?”
 - c. The Bible does not answer the “When?” question.
 - i. [Mark 13:32](#) - *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”*
 - d. Pastor Gary said, “If there [was] a date [for Jesus’ return]... how would you live your life? ... If you knew exactly when he [was going] to return, would you be as serious about your faith, or would you tend to take a little advantage of his absence? ... [Jesus] wants to tell us to conduct ourselves in [such] a way that we are ready for his Second Coming.”
 - i. [Matthew 24:44](#) - *“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*
2. The Parable
 - a. Jesus often used parables as a teaching tool to help his hearers comprehend a deeper spiritual truth, and in this context that relates to his Second Coming.
 - b. [Matthew 24:45-51](#) - *“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?”*

Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, 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, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

3. The Characters

- a. Pastor Gary said, "This is a parable that contrasts between a faithful, wise servant and an evil servant, [contrast between diligence and negligence, rewards and punishment.] ... Jesus [was] talking about himself... us, and he [was] talking about his household or an unbelieving world that he loves and died for. [Jesus] is the master in the parable. ... We are the servants, and the rest of the world is the household that he loves and cares about. The master has gone away. Jesus died on a cross, he was buried, and three days later he rose from the dead, and forty days after that he ascended back into heaven, where he presently is [seated] at the right hand of the Father. ... In the meantime, while he is gone, he has entrusted to us his household, the people that he loves and cares about and died for. [We], as his servants, should feed them the Word of God, love them, care about them... fulfill the great commission, [present the Gospel, and] do our part while [Jesus, the master], is away so that when he returns he would find us faithful, rather than [find us taking advantage of the world, joining in worldly ways, compromising our lives, and being negligent]. ... How well are [you] representing him and living for him while [Jesus, the master] is away?"
 - i. **2 Corinthians 5:20** - *"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ..."*

4. The Faithful and Wise Servant

- a. This servant understood his position correctly regarding master and servant.
- b. Pastor Gary said, "There were many people who [called Jesus master], including his own disciples. [This] was an affectionate [and respectful] term that acknowledged Jesus' Lordship and authority over a [person's] life. ... [There are some in the New Testament] who refer to themselves as bondservants [in recognition] that [Jesus is Lord, King, and Master], and we subject ourselves to his authority. ... If you lose sight of the fact that God is in charge of your life, you are likely to live as if you were [in charge of your life], and [you] aren't."
- c. Bondservant
 - i. The Greek word is *doulos*,¹ which means one who gives himself up to

¹ <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong=G1401&t=NKJV>

the master's authority.

1. **Romans 1:1** - *"Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ..."*
 2. **Galatians 1:10** - *"... a bondservant of Christ."*
 3. **Titus 1:1** - *"Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ..."*
 4. **James 1:1** - *"James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ."*
 5. **2 Peter 1:1** - *"Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ."*
 6. **Jude 1** - *"Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ..."*
- d. This servant understood that he was most content when he was most obedient to the master.
- i. **Matthew 24:46** - *"Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing."*
 - ii. The Greek word for blessed is makarios, which means, "Oh, how happy!" ²
 - iii. Jesus used this word for each one of the beatitudes found in **Matthew 5:1-12**. ³
 - iv. Pastor Gary said, "The world likes to turn this upside down and say, 'You're going to be the most miserable when you try to follow all of the rules of the Bible. Well, the fact of the matter is, and you can personally attest to this if you have put this into practice, that you are more miserable when you disobey God. Blessing comes from obeying the commandments of God. [His commands] are not burdensome to us because they are safeguards for our lives to bring us his contentment, his joy, [and] his happiness."
 1. **Revelation 22:14** - *"Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life..."*
- e. This servant understood that faithfulness will be rewarded by the master.
- i. **Matthew 24:47** - *"Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods."*
 - ii. Pastor Gary said, "Let me make this clear! Good works do not get us saved. There's only one good thing that gets us saved, and that's the good work that Jesus did by dying on the cross for our sins. We put our faith and trust in what Jesus did and his finished work, and thus, we have salvation by faith. It's not [by things we do], but, still, there is a correlation between faith and works. ... Even though works don't get us saved, works show that we are [saved] because [works] demonstrate who our master is and who we belong to and who we are living for. [We] do good works as an overflow of our relationship with

² <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong=G3107&t=NKJV>

³ https://www.blueletterbible.org/nkjv/mat/5/1/s_934001

our Savior. We just do good things because we want to please [the Lord] and honor him. ... God rewards good works.”

1. **James 2:26** - *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”*
2. **Revelation 22:12** - *“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”*
3. **Matthew 5:11-12** - *“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*
4. **Matthew 6:16-18** - *“Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”*
5. **Hebrews 11:6** - *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*

5. The Evil Servant

- a. **Matthew 24:48** - *“But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’...”*
- b. The evil servant lost sight of the one he was serving.
 - i. Pastor Gary said, “Simply put, he thought he could get away with it because the master wasn’t around. ... [When] you lose sight of the master, you are likely to give in to your own desires. ... When people have this disposition, they start following... their own evil desires.”
 - ii. **2 Peter 3:3, 8-9** - *“First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ... But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (1984 NIV)*
- c. The evil servant traded his place with the master for the pleasures of the world.
 - i. **Matthew 24:49** - *“... and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards...”*
 - ii. **2 Peter 3:10-12** - *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The*

heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.” (1984 NIV)

- iii. Pastor Gary said, “When we are living with the joyful anticipation of the Second Coming of Christ, it motivates us to holy living. When [we] lose sight of that, [we] will end up living just however [we] want [to live]. This world desires to own [us], and while the master is away, [we] will have to decide who [we] will serve. Will it be the world, or will it be the Lord?”
- iv. Pastor Gary read the lyrics to the famous hymn, “I’d Rather Have Jesus,” which was written by Mrs. Rhea F. Miller in 1922. ⁴
 - 1. George Beverly Shea is credited with writing the music to Mrs. Miller’s poem. ⁵
- v. **1 John 2:15** - *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*
- d. The evil servant was not expecting the return of his master.
 - i. **Matthew 24:50** - *“[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...”*

6. The Conclusion

- a. Pastor Gary said, “[All] of this proves that the evil servant] didn’t really belong to the master at all. [He] suffered the consequences of [his] choices, and so, when the master returned, he severely punished him and assigned him a place with the hypocrites. ... If I could summarize this parable into three exhortations, [they would be these: serve faithfully, live holy, and watch expectantly.]”
 - i. **Matthew 24:51** - *“... will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

Discussion Questions

- 1. Read **Matthew 24:42-44** to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
- 2. Provide an overview of Pastor Gary’s outline concerning the Second Coming of Christ. (See #1 above)

⁴ <https://hymnary.org/hymn/NNBH2001/page/305>

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHg-o2eGzM4>

3. Read [Matthew 24:45–51](#). (See #2b above)
4. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments about the different characters in Jesus' parable. (See #3 above)
5. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's remarks about the faithful and wise servant. (See #4b above)
6. Allow the people in your group to share examples about the ways the Holy Spirit is molding and shaping them into a bondservant of Christ? (See #4c above)
7. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments about the blessing of contentment for those who follow the will and ways of the Lord. (See #4d above)
8. Allow the people in your group to share examples of the ways the Lord is working in and through them to serve others in Jesus' name. (See #4e above)
9. Read and discuss the Scriptures associated with Pastor Gary's outline concerning the Lord rewarding good works." (See #4e above)
10. Read and discuss the points in Pastor Gary's outline concerning the evil servant, and the ways he had lost sight of the one he served, traded his position for the pleasures of the world, and disregarded the fact that the master would one day return. (See #5 above)
11. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's remarks about the need for Believers to live in joyful anticipation of the Lord's return. (See #5c-iii above)
12. Encourage the people in your group to sing "I'd Rather Have Jesus." ⁶
13. Read Pastor Gary's closing remarks (See #6a above) and close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶ https://hymnary.org/text/id_rather_have_jesus_than_silver_or_gold