

Why Aren't You Involved?

Luke 12:32-48

If the church doesn't exist to meet my needs, then why in the world does it exist at all (one might ask)? Truth is, the church exists for the glory of God and everything the church does should reflect that in every way. Meaning: each and every one of us who is involved in the church (as a believer) has a responsibility. So, how can I fulfill my responsibility?

Our Involvement Revolves Around Generosity (verses 32-34)

32"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **v33**Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. **v34**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

- The context leading up to this revolves around God's generosity. God is generous beyond our comprehension. We need to trust in his generosity.
- He is offering **the kingdom**. In v31 he tells us to seek his kingdom first. Why? Because A. he is offering it and B. it's better than anything temporal.
- Jesus calls us his **little flock** in v3 and a flock always has a shepherd. Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd. Good shepherds tend to their flock. Good shepherds are generous and will do anything to meet the needs of their flock.
- 2 principles about God's generosity emerge from v32: 1. God delights in being generous. It is his **good pleasure** (εὐδοκίᾳ - a joyful willingness to do good for someone else). 2. God gives us His best and most valued possessions. He gives us **the kingdom**.
- 3 principles about what our generosity should look like emerge in v33-34: 1. Our generosity should be out of willingness and flexibility to meet the needs around us. 2. Our generosity should be invested into something eternally significant. 3. Our generosity will flow from our perspective of Jesus.

Our Involvement Revolves Around Alert Action (verses 35-40)

v35"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, **v36**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.

- Staying **dressed for action** (περιζώννυμι - girding up of the loins) comes from the idea of being prepared at all times.
- The idea behind keeping your **lamps burning** is that even during the darkest, craziest and most confusing times, we are watchful.

v37 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. **v38**If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!

- What's crazy is that there is something in it for us. Jesus is saying when it's all said and done, when the master has come back for his servants (his church), he is going to serve us.

v39 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. **v40**You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

- If a person knows when a thief is coming, he'll take measures to protect himself from that thief. But, no thief will divulge when he is coming.

Our Involvement Revolves Around Fulfilled Responsibility (verses 41-48)

v41 Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?" **v42** 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? **v43** Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. **v44** Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. **v45** 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, **v46** 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. **v47** 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. **v48** 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.

- An apparent responsibility is given in Scripture for those who know what is right. Who should know more about truth than the people who are a part of the American church? Yet, many walk through church-doors every week all over this nation and do not have a genuine relationship with Jesus. They are not his true followers. There is no love, there is no sacrifice, there is no care, there is no generosity, there is no alert action and there is no fulfilled responsibility. Jesus hammers this home in v48: "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." There is an accountability system in place.

- The point is that we have been given a lot and we have access to a lot. We have a ton of responsibility. Are we just sitting back and waiting for others to do it?

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