

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

READY AND WAITING – PART III

Luke 12:48 “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.” (Read Luke 12:42-48)

On the last day all who stand before their eternal judge will be required to give an accounting. The greater God’s gifts they have received the more God will expect them to have managed them well. Punishment will be given in proportion to the mismanagement of God’s gifts. All who mismanage them will be punished, but those who received “much,” much will be expected by God in their accounting to Him. Those who mismanaged “less” will receive a lesser punishment. But all who mismanage will be punished.

Those who have received the Kingdom of God through faith in Jesus will be required to give an account of their stewardship (management) of God’s gifts including their steadfast worship life, faithful reception of the sacraments and their daily meditation upon His word. To turn your back on these precious gifts from God is to reject His gift of forgiveness, eternal life and salvation through His Son Jesus. Those who reject, who are unfaithful in this stewardship, will receive the severest punishment because through these gifts of God to them they had been warned there would be a day of accounting that they must give. They will have no excuse.

Jesus spoke these words in the context of the hypocrisy of the Pharisees who outwardly demonstrated a life committed to Yahweh while inwardly, their faith was in their own achievements, works and position in the temple. God is concerned with the condition of your heart’s relationship with Your heavenly Father through your relationship with His Son. Remember, Jesus says, “No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.” (John 14:6-7) “No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.” (1 John 2:23)

Prayer: Upon You, dear Jesus, my Eternal life depends. Through Your Word and the Sacraments Send Your Spirit into my heart to keep me ready and waiting for you to come to take me to be with You for all eternity. In Your holy name. Amen.

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

“Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake!

“When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

“Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
My sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”
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