

0 (0s):

Invest in weapons and training and all sorts of stuff so that they can get ready for the end. That's probably not what we're going to be talking about in this series. Okay. And if you do watch the show, there's some really cool things. Like there was this compound out somewhere in the middle of nowhere, and there's like these three families that got together and they've created the compound and one cool thing. They took an old truck, they took out the engine and they hand-built a wood fired engine. Okay. Because at the end of the world, you don't know if you're gonna have gasoline still might need to drive somewhere. Right. So, right. I didn't even know that was possible would power engine, but then there's also some other crazy things like a family in Arizona who converted their backyard, swimming pool into a hydroponic system.

0 (42s):

And they filled their entire pond now with tilapia, because you might want to eat tilapia at the end, but because these tilapia spawns so much, not only are they planning to eat three meals a day of tilapia at the end, they have to eat three meals a day of tilapia. Now, can you imagine that? And I love seafood just as much as the next guy, but tilapia. Do you know what they eat? They're bottom feeders. Okay. So whatever, when you eat them, you're eating what they eat. Okay. Let's just say that. And I don't know if that's what it takes to prepare for the end. I don't know. I'll stick with rice and beans, I guess. Okay. So w what I'm saying in this message is it's not necessarily about all those things. It's fine. If you want to prepare for the end and get some bottled water and some dried food and, and stored that, that's fine.

0 (1m 28s):

You want to get some weather gear, you know, because it might get freezing cold without heat. Okay. That's fine. People in Texas have discovered desks. You need some of that stuff, right. You know? Right. Well, that's fine, but that's not what we're talking about. What we're talking about is the things we actually need to change in our hearts, in our minds, in our lives now to prepare for whenever that end may come, whether it's before this series is finished, or whether it's a hundred years from now, and all of us are dead, we need to prepare for the Dan. And that's what we're going to learn. We're actually going to learn this whole series. We're learning from Jesus himself, because Jesus talked about the end and he talked about what we need to do to prepare for the end. So in this series, we're going to cover Luke chapter 12, verse 35, all the way to Luke chapter 14, the end of it.

0 (2m 8s):

If you've been here for a while, you know that we've been going through the gospel, according to Luke, it's the longest gospel. And because of that, we started way back like December, 2019, we're kind of doing a series in Luke and then another series. And then going back to Luke. So we're doing that. And we're going to be in these, this section, Luke chapter 1235 to the end of chapter 14. And if you miss any of those series, that's fine. You can go back and find them on [arise, denver.com/media](https://arise.denver.com/media). But this is kind of a, more of a standalone section of scripture as Jesus talks about the end. And w w if you remember the very last message in our last Luke series, pastor Sawyer gave the message. And he was talking about worrying because Jesus talked about that in the middle of chapter 12 of Luke, and particularly Sawyer had a great,

big idea that, you know, don't worry be faithful if you remember that message.

0 (2m 54s):

But, but Jesus said at the end of that section, he said, Hey, whatever you do in this life, don't worry so much about up your treasures here on earth, where moth and rust destroy, right? So that, that was the last kind of thing he finished off. So, so don't worry. You can you trust God, don't worry about the things that are gonna be destroyed in this life. So immediately after that, now Jesus begins to talk about out the end and what we need to do to prepare for it. So if you have a Bible, go ahead and get to a Luke chapter 12, verse 35, if you're online, or if you're here in person, you can get out your phone and use the YouVersion Bible app and look for the arise Denver event or I search Denver event. And you can follow along the scriptures, even take notes there in your app, as we start this message, because today's message is how to prepare for the end of the world, how to prepare for the end.

0 (3m 38s):

And here's what Jesus is going to teach us today through two parables that he's going to teach you at one point we're learning in this point is that preparing for the end is not about storing up the most, but serving at your post for being prepared for the end is not about storing up the most. It's not about who can get the most dry goods and the most MRE stashed. It's not about any of that, but it's about storing up. It's about serving at your post. So it's not about storing up the most, but serving at your posts. And we're going to learn this from these two parables. Jesus teaches these, these stories that teach this deeper spiritual truth. So let's start in verse three 35.

0 (4m 19s):

Jesus says, be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning like servants, waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet so that when he comes and knocks, they can immediately open the door for him. So Jesus tells this story. He says, be dressed, ready, keep your lamps burning. You're you're a servant. So he's saying that this is what it's like. You're, you're a servant to a great master. And Jesus of course, is going to talk later that he is that great master one day who will return. He said, we need to be in servants like a servant waiting for the master returned from a wedding. Now wedding in Jesus's day were week long things.

0 (4m 59s):

They were a huge party. Okay. At least a few days at minimum, probably a week more likely, man, that sounds kind of fun, doesn't it? Yeah. You guys get married, right? A couple engaged, like, Hey, we can do that. Right. A week long party and everyone showed up, but they kind of went a few days, maybe a week kind of until the food and booze ran out right there, they're having a great big party. So when the master goes to this party, he's going to be there for a while. And the servants don't know when he's going to return. And it wasn't like today where you can go on expedia.com and you can book your plane ticket in advance. And know when you're going to leave. When you're going to return, you can't book a Greyhound ticket to get

there. Okay. It was just like, we're going to set out on a trip. And when it's over, we're going to come back. So the master might return on any day.

0 (5m 42s):

He might return at any time because it might be the middle of the night. He wants to finish the trip. Hey, I'll show up at one, two, three in the morning. I want to get home. So at the gate, cause you can imagine this is a great master with a great big house and estate. And at the gate, they had to let people in and there's the, at the gate, he needs to stay awake. He needs to stay ready. He needs to have his fire burning just in case the master comes back in the middle of the night to let him in the gate. That's what he's saying. We are like those servants who now need to be ready. We need to be alert. We need to be alert and ready for whenever Jesus comes back and it starts out with Jesus says, be dressed, ready? See in the Greek, it's actually a phrase that we don't use anymore.

0 (6m 22s):

It's the phrase, gird up your loins.

1 (6m 25s):

What? Okay. That's

0 (6m 27s):

Why it's translated a different way in our NIV, right? But it says gird up your loins in the Greek because men in that day, men would have worn long ropes in order to run or do any strenuous activity. They would have rolled up their robes and kind of tied it with their belt. And then they could move a little bit more freely. So he's saying, Hey, be ready like that. By the, even the clothes you're wearing it. And of course that's an analogy for how we are supposed to think with the alertness of our minds and attitudes. Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, who's going to speak here in just a few minutes in our passage, says something very similar using the same phrase in first, Peter one 13. And this is the end. KJV the old translation that still uses this phrase.

0 (7m 8s):

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind. So see that metaphor. It's not really about the clothes you wear. It's not like some special doomsday prepper garb that you need to go out and buy, right? Some fire retardant overalls. You know, you don't need that. Say gird up the loins of your mind be sober. So Peter is saying, Hey, the way you live the way you think needs to be in a way that's not distracted for getting about what's going to happen. Having your mind muddled because of the lacking sobriety, it's saying, Hey, you need to be focused. And to be alert, you need to be ready. And in the same way, Jesus is using that metaphor for us. We need to think a certain way.

1 (7m 44s):

The way we think

0 (7m 45s):

That Jesus could come back at any moment, that's how we need to leave

1 (7m 50s):

All of our lives. Jesus goes on verse 37. He says it will be good

0 (7m 56s):

For those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly, I tell you he will dress himself to serve. We'll have them recline at the table and we'll come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready. Even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak twice, he says it will be good. And that's going to be a phrase that's going to occur again. It will be good. It could be translated as you will be blessed. You will be happy. You will be rewarded.

1 (8m 25s):

Yeah. If you're ready. So, so this is,

0 (8m 28s):

Would you say, Hey, the servant who's ready will be rewarded. They will be happy. Good things will happen to them. And he even explains what it's going to be. Now, this is a radical what Jesus says.

1 (8m 38s):

He says, truly, I tell you, he, this is

0 (8m 41s):

About the mastery. He will dress himself to serve. We'll have them recline at the table and we'll come and wait on them. And if Jesus is talking about himself, he's saying, when I come back, if you are my servant, if you are ready, if you are alert, if you are doing what you're supposed to do, I will serve you. Now. This is radical. No master in the ancient world would stoop and lower himself to serve his servants. But that's what Jesus promises he will do for us. Last week, as we finished our series, the quest that that final message, the goal. We talked about that the Jesus would prepare a great banquet, a great feast for all those who believe in him. And here, we learned that at this feast, Jesus himself will serve us.

1 (9m 21s):

Can you just imagine that? Getting to the end

0 (9m 24s):

And then the King of the universe who everyone's worshiping and glorifying angels multitudes upon multitudes of angels, bowing down in worship to him, Jesus will come and serve us.

1 (9m 34s):

You don't want another piece of bread. Can you imagine that?

0 (9m 36s):

But that's, what's going to happen for the servant who is ready. And that's why it's not about storing up the most. It's about serving at your post. Jesus. You'll be rewarded. You'll be blessed. It will be good for you. If, if you already what he says, eh, and this is so important because we don't know. We don't know when Jesus will come back in verse 39. Jesus makes it clear, but understand this. If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready because the son of man will come at an hour. When you do not expect him, Jesus is talking about himself, the son of man.

0 (10m 17s):

So he kind of shifts his analogy here. Do you see what he's doing? Okay. Now he's saying, okay, if you own the house, if you're waiting there, if you're the guard, you're not going to fall asleep. If you know the thief is coming, thief's going to come and try to break in, in the middle of night. If you knew the time the thief was going to come into your house, you'd be up waiting, polishing your shotgun, right. Or you have your ring doorbell or whatever. Okay? Whatever your security system, but you'd have it ready. Right? We're going, gonna make your day last state. Right? Okay. Just come on in thief. Make my day.

1 (10m 51s):

Hey. Right. That's what you do. If you know the thief is coming. Yeah.

0 (10m 55s):

And Jesus saying, we, you don't know when I'm going to come. Cause I am like the thief in the night to come that way to come when you least expect it, when no one expects it. Jesus says the exact same thing in revelation, chapter 16, verse 15, he says, look, I come like a thief. Blessed. It is the one who stays awake and remains closed. Same metaphor there. Right? It remains closed. So as not to go naked and be safely exposed, this does not mean you can't sleep in a buff. Okay? That's not what it's saying. The clothes. Once again are an analogy saying that you need to be ready. Your mind needs to be alert. You need to think and believe that in any time Jesus could come back. I don't know when it's going to be. So I'm going to live my life now is if he could come back at any moment, that's what it means to serve at your post to be ready.

0 (11m 41s):

Because at any time the thief could come in and he, anytime Jesus could return, the master could be there. So we need to be ready at all times. And readiness is such an important thing earlier this year at the end of 2020, I just did a huge, deep dive into world war II stuff. I read a bunch of books on world war. I don't know. I just got obsessed with it. Right? What I going to be doing this? And I read Steven Ambrose's book D day a

huge book all about one day, because it was such a pivotal day in the history of the world, right? Because at that point on June six, 1944, Hitler and the axes occupied most, all of Europe, they controlled all of France. And they had for years been waiting for an invasion from the allies and from England.

0 (12m 23s):

So they had fortified for years, the entire coast of Normandy, the entire Northern coast of France, they were getting prepared. They were ready. Right. And they were laying all these, these groundworks. They put concrete bunkers in there. They had machine guns and mortars and huge guns. And, and they just had everything ready, minds, everything. Right. They were just ready. Cause they knew at any time there could be an invasion, but what's most interesting is what actually happened on D-Day because on D-Day they, the allies had been planning its invasion. And then on June at Oh six 30, the first soldiers landed in that amphibious assault from the allies at Utah beach. And there were some German soldiers ready that, you know, they, they were there in their posts.

0 (13m 6s):

But part of German Germany's response, their plan was that they would use their tanks because that was their great weapon. And in Europe they had these pans or tanks that would go fast and they could attack quickly. And they were very good at what they were doing. So their plan was, as soon as the allied forces come up a little bit onto the beach, we'll be shooting the whole time. And then we'll just use the tanks to just drive them back into the sea. And Germany was pretty confident about this plan. It was actually probably a really good strike, but here's the problem. There was one guy and we knew him as Hitler. Right? Who said, I get to give the command if we're going to use the tanks or not. So at Oh six 30, when those four for soldiers landed very quickly, the message got back all the way to Germany, where Hitler was that, that there was an invasion, but where was that?

0 (13m 51s):

Do you know? He was sleeping. Nobody wanted to wake up if you're a right. So they let him sleep and keep sleeping. He finally woke up at noon, had his breakfast. They let him know what was going on. And he said, well, let's just see if this is the real invasion. That was a fake invasion. So it wasn't until four o'clock in the afternoon that he finally gave the command. Okay, you can use the tanks. But by then it was too late. The allied forces had taken up enough ground that there was no way that could be done back. And therefore Hitler and the axes lost the war and completely changed the events of history because Hitler wasn't alert. He wasn't ready. Was he?

0 (14m 32s):

So I don't need to say it, but I'll say it again. Don't be like Hitler, right? Only about application point. Don't be like Hitler. Okay. But don't be like Hitler because he wasn't alert. He wasn't ready. He wasn't waiting for what would come, but we need to be ready. We need to be alert because at any time at any moment, Jesus could return. No one knows the,

1 (14m 52s):

That Jesus will return. This is really important. No one knows the hour,

0 (14m 60s):

But I do want to say this. Jesus is going to go on with this second parable now to say, Hey, it's not just about like standing there watching and waiting. It's an active waiting. It's an active waiting. And that's what he's going to be talking about. Now in the second half of our passage, starting in verse 41, Peter talked about him, asked one of the disciples. Lord, are you telling this parable to us, the disciples or to everyone? In other words, Peter wants to know, does everyone need to know that they need to be prepared and ready for your return? Or just the disciples? Is there something special for us? So Jesus, in the way he always does. He answers the question in a very roundabout way, right? So, so, so now he's talking to two disciples for them. For those of us who now are followers of Jesus, because we are disciples as well.

0 (15m 42s):

The Lord answered verse 42, who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time, it will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing. So when he returns, truly, I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. So now it's similar. There's a master. Who's away in this parable, but now he's saying, Hey, the manager of the servants, this is person who has a little bit more responsibility and the manager of the servants, okay. What would be feeding them would, would be paying them would be making sure all the servants are doing what they're supposed to be doing, right? So he's saying, Hey Peter, you are a disciple. You are a follower, you know, a lot.

0 (16m 24s):

So therefore you are responsible for others as well to, to care for them to, to make sure they have what they need to feed them

1 (16m 32s):

Even spiritually. So, so

0 (16m 34s):

In this sense, those of us who are already followers of Jesus, our job is to help others follow Jesus. Right? We talk about that a lot. And you heard it from me before, okay? We say our mission here is helping people follow Jesus because we say, Hey, not only are these, a church means a pastor. My job is to help you follow Jesus, but in turn for you to help others, see if we are followers of Jesus, we must be serving at our post, which means helping others, serving others, caring about others, teaching others, and then we'll be rewarded. He's like, I'm gonna give you all my possessions when I return, okay, I'm going to, Jesus is going to serve us. And he's going to give us possessions. I mean, this is crazy

1 (17m 9s):

Verse 45. But suppose

0 (17m 12s):

The servant says to himself, my master has taken a long time in coming. And he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him. And at an hour, he is not aware of, he will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

1 (17m 35s):

So he's saying, Hey,

0 (17m 36s):

This is someone who says, they're a follower of me. They're my servant. And yet they're beating others. Meaning they're mistreating people, not loving people, treating people with hate and disrespect and not giving them things they need. And they're getting drunk. Meaning they're just like, Oh, I'm just going to live my life. I'm not going to be obedient. He says, for those people, it's going to be bad. It's not going to be good. Right? The master will come back. And at the very end of verse 46, he will cut them to pieces and assign them a place with the unbelievers. Now there's some debate. Whether cut them to pieces means literally like cut them in half or cut them off. But either way, it's going to suck.

0 (18m 17s):

It's not going to be good. This is punishment. This is being cast out with the unbelievers. You can say you a follower of Jesus, but if you're not living like Jesus could return and ready and waiting for him in service. If you're not serving at your post, you'll be cast off with the unbelievers.

1 (18m 32s):

So Jesus says, and that's, it seems like a terrible fate.

0 (18m 36s):

Jesus is warning us here. How you live now needs to be preparing for the end. But it's not about storing up the most. It's about serving at your posts.

1 (18m 45s):

He says, let's keep reading in verse 47.

0 (18m 49s):

He says the servant who knows the masters will and does not get ready or does not do what the master

wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving, punishment will be beaten with few blows from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded. And from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. So now he's getting back to that first question that Peter asked him, what's the difference between disciples and not disciples on the end at the end? Well disciples know a lot. They've been given a lot. They've been entrusted with responsibilities and because of that, more will be expected of them.

0 (19m 33s):

But those who don't know who haven't heard about Jesus don't know, the Bible have not been taught. There's going to be less expecting from them, right? So Jesus is saying, Hey, on the end, at the end, everyone will be judged. But the more that you're given in this life more is expected of you. If you're given less, less is expected of you. In other words, Jesus saying, I am the judge. I will return. And I will be 100% perfectly

1 (19m 57s):

Just

0 (19m 60s):

The rewards and the punishment that I'm bringing. Okay? Now this is really important for us because what we do in our culture, we judge the judges. If you notice this, we, we judge the judges and in our society, literally we do this. When we see a news story, here's a convicted serial rapist that gets three years in prison. We're angry, right? How could he, people are going online. They're mad, they're aching the house of that judge. How could you do that? That's a terrible punishment, right? It's way too lenient. And that there's somebody else who has like a dime bag of marijuana and is away for 15 years. We freak out about that too. Right? How could they be going away? That punishment be so big for such a small crime?

0 (20m 41s):

Don't we say this, we judge the judges and it's even, there was a scandal here just a couple of weeks ago in Colorado. You guys see this in the news where there was a judge who was acting very inappropriately and doing some things very wrong. And the rest of the judges kind of just covered it up. Nobody knew about it. So it was a scandal when it kinda came out because who was judging the judges. That's what everybody wants to know because human judges get things wrong.

1 (21m 6s):

Right? Human

0 (21m 8s):

Judges get things wrong. That's why even people freak out and there's protests when someone is shot by a police officer,

1 (21m 15s):

Because

0 (21m 16s):

We want to know, is there justice? Is there right. Justice for what's going on because, okay, well was the criminal, you know, was he armed or not? Okay. We want to see. And that's why we even have like body cams, right? Because we want to see what's going on. And then we get cell phones. But even then we still don't always get the best angle. And we can't really figure out what's going on in the scene. And then we wonder, well, was this premeditated? What was this racist perhaps? Or was this just person responding out of self-defense? This is what everybody's debating. Right? Huge arguments and fights all over the place because none of us know, right. Justice. We all do. That's what everybody's fighting for. But it's so hard to figure out. Cause we don't see everything and we don't know everything, but you know, who does see everything and knows everything.

1 (21m 59s):

Jesus, he doesn't

0 (22m 1s):

Need to see the camera angles on replay because he sees all things.

1 (22m 5s):

He doesn't need

0 (22m 6s):

To know what was the motivation for someone because he sees someone's heart and knows what's going on in their heart. So when Jesus comes in returns and when he brings justice there, true justice will actually happen.

1 (22m 19s):

This is what he's saying here

0 (22m 21s):

For the person who does wrong. I know exactly what wrong they did and what was going on in their heart. And I know if they knew better, right? That's what he's saying. If they knew better and they did it, it's going to be worse for the person who didn't know. We did the same thing in our justice system. It's a difference between manslaughter, you know, and murder. If there was, you know, pre-thought, if there was premeditated crime, we want to know what's going on in the person's heart. Right? So Jesus actually knows all those things. He knows what someone was taught, what happened in their childhood. If, if their mom

neglected them, if there was trauma, he can look at all of those things so that he can judge someone fairly. And that's what he does on judgment day. There's going to be 100% perfect

1 (22m 57s):

Justice. So for any sin

0 (22m 60s):

And crime that we have committed, the punishment will exactly perfectly meet the crime and the opposite for, for the good we do. It will be rewarded exactly and perfectly.

1 (23m 11s):

So Jesus saying,

0 (23m 12s):

So if that's the case and there will be a judgment day and we will finally have true justice.

1 (23m 16s):

Yes. That should change how we live. Our life now should change how we act,

0 (23m 24s):

How we live, how have we talked to each other? How we treat each other

1 (23m 28s):

Now, right.

0 (23m 31s):

How we serve at our posts now is going to be different because we know the judge is coming at the end. That's how we prepare for the end times. Now there's a bumper sticker. Perhaps you've seen it around. That says, Jesus is coming. Look busy. You guys seen this. This is not what I'm teaching today. Okay. This is not what I'm teaching nor was Jesus teaching that, okay. People are like, Oh, mom's coming to see me. Let's act like we were doing what we were supposed to do. Right. Boss finally shows up. Oh yeah. Let's all pretend like we were working. Right. Okay. That's not what Jesus is saying. He's saying, it's how we actively wait. It's it's how we serve. How we're faithful at our post. Now every single day, now I can share this from my own experience.

0 (24m 13s):

I remember when I was a teenager, my parents would go overseas to Eastern Europe where they would do mission work every summer for four to six weeks every year. So when I was a teenager, my parents would leave me and my two older siblings at home and we would take care of the cows house and have to do

everything. And they expected it to be clean when they got back. Right. My mom did. And especially, right. So what did we do? Well for four to six weeks, we wouldn't do anything. And then the day before they would come back, we would scramble, scrub everything, try to clean everything. Right. Just to be ready for, for when my parents were coming back the next day. And we'd never did a good enough job. Right? That's what happened. It don't do that.

0 (24m 53s):

That's not what Jesus is saying now when I was older and I definitely didn't do this perfectly, but when I was older and I was actually 21, right before I got married to Melissa, I was starting seminary. I lived at this place here in Denver called the Downing house. And it was a really cool place. It was like a, a big estate and cherry Hills village. And they would let students and young people live there for free. If they took care of the grounds and they kept it clean. Right. But they would also let us know, Hey, you guys live here and you super cheap rent, but you have to keep the place clean. And at any moment we might have guests come to see the property. And so everything needs to be cleaned and ready. So of course I didn't do it perfectly, but we are much more active about keeping things clean then than I was when I was a teenager, we were cleaning regularly to make the place look good, doing yard work and that kind of stuff, because we never knew when someone could come.

0 (25m 41s):

So, so that's how we're supposed to live our lives. Do you guys get the difference? It's not okay. Scramble. Oh, Jesus is here. Delete my browser history. Oh no. You know. Okay. It's not about that. It's about living faithfully the whole time, serving on our post every day as if at any moment he could come back, I want to be doing what I'm supposed to do when he does come back. Because we don't know when it is. It's not even like a day's notice that that I knew with, you know, my parents it's any moment, you will be caught off guard. So that's why we need to be alert and ready and living faithfully and every day and every moment.

0 (26m 22s):

So, so this should challenge us a little bit because what this is saying is that we need to stop saying, and I know we all do this. Stop saying, I'll do that later.

1 (26m 35s):

Yeah. Can we say that? Okay,

0 (26m 38s):

Why'd you today? What'd you can put off till tomorrow. Isn't that how we live our lives, especially when it comes to our faith. Let's be, we say, you know, you know, when I'm, when I'm less busy, then I'll start reading my Bible. Maybe when the kids are a little bit older, then all get involved in a community group that, you know, all starts serving, you know, later when life just, Oh my gosh, that's huge. Project work is busy. Oh, things will calm down. They never do all start tiving once I get that raise and then the race comes in, you

have more bills to pay. That's what we do. So instead of putting off until tomorrow, the things you know you're supposed to do today, let's be faithful today.

0 (27m 22s):

That's what Jesus is telling us here. And that's what I want to just encourage you and challenge you to do. Just do one of those things that, you know, I've always wanted to do this. I've always said I was going to do this, but you've been putting it off that I just want you to do one of those things today. What is that thing for you? I don't know. I need to tell you, you know what it is. You've been thinking about it. You know, we're supposed to do this thing, but you haven't been doing it. You've been putting it off. I just want to encourage you on a challenge. You to take that step, maybe it's to finally declared Jesus as your Lord and savior. Don't wait until the end. I'm let me think about it a little more. No. Make your decision baptism coming up on March 20th. Oh, I'll do it. Maybe once mom's gone and she won't care baptize, right? No, no, no.

0 (28m 2s):

Make the decision today. Do what you're supposed to do as the faithful servant at your post today. And that's what I want to challenge you. And let me say this because I know there's some people listening who really need to hear this. What you've been saying I'll do after the pandemic is over. If it's a faithfulness to Christ do it today because I know there are some people who were saying, Hey, when the pandemic is over, then I'll get involved. Then I'll serve. Then I'll do this thing. Jesus tells me to do stop, beat faithful today. Do you want to challenge you to do that even to serve online? That's why we've been talking about online hosts. Even. That's a way that you can serve. Even if you're having health issues, we have someone like Amy Brown, who's saying, Hey, I don't feel comfortable yet.

0 (28m 42s):

You know, because of my health to be in person, but I'm gonna serve. And she has been one of our most faithful, full service with our online hosts every week. She's online connecting with people. Okay? Just because you're saying that the pandemic is here, that doesn't give us an excuse to not be faithful. So let's be faithful today because what we do know is that this same Jesus who told us that he would coming back is the Jesus who served us with his entire life. And Jesus did that with, with every breath he had, he served, he was faithful at his post while he was there, even though it was hard in his last night together with his best friends that he knew he was going to die trade by one of them, he washed their feet in service.

0 (29m 26s):

He loved others for us, even going up to the cross because when we see the judge coming and we know that we're going to receive some punishment, cause all of us have sinned. Jesus said, I will serve you by taking your punishment upon myself. And that's what he did on the cross. When he died, all the punishment that we just leave perfectly deserved. Jesus took upon himself. And if we believe in him, we can be forgiven from all of that stuff. And when we do finally see the judge, we can claim the blood of Christ and be forgiven of our sins and given eternal.

1 (29m 60s):

Now that's good news and Jesus promises us the path. So we need to put our faith in him and we need to be faithful servants now at our post, whatever that means, wherever you are do it today. Don't put it off till tomorrow. Be faithful today

0 (30m 21s):

On May 19th and 17th

1 (30m 24s):

80, there, there was kind of in a

0 (30m 28s):

Interesting day in us history. Okay? Right in the whole of revolutionary war, there was a day and it started in the morning, like a normal day. But, but by mid-morning the sky was turning yellow and by noon it was completely,

1 (30m 41s):

It'll be black. They call it new England's dark day. You can look it up.

0 (30m 46s):

And in new England's dark day, everybody was freaking out what was going on because all the way from South Jersey to Portland, Maine was completely black at noon. They had to light candles just to see it didn't have electricity. And they had no idea what was going on. They couldn't look on CNN to figure out, Hey, what's going on? They had no weather reports. They didn't know what was going on. It was just completely black. So what did they,

1 (31m 8s):

It's the end of the world.

0 (31m 10s):

It's the end of the world it's coming it's happening right now. You know, years afterwards, what scientists think happened was that there was really dense fog, really low cloud coverage. Plus there was huge fires, forest fires in Canada that were being blown down into new England. But all they knew for that entire day, over 24 hours of just complete blackness, they thought it was the end of the world. And at that same time, the Connecticut legislature was meeting and they were meeting and discussing. And most of them were like, well, I think we should go home. We should be with our families just to stop doing what we're doing because it's the end of the world, Jesus coming back. But there was one man, Abraham Devonport, who I think faithfully followed Jesus, his word.

0 (31m 52s):

And this is what he said. He said, this well may be the day of judgment,

1 (31m 57s):

Which the world awaits,

0 (31m 58s):

But be it so or not. I know only my present duty and my Lord's command to occupy till he come. So at the posts where he had sent me in his Providence, I choose for one to meet him face to face. Therefore with all reverence, I would say, let God

1 (32m 15s):

I do his work. We will see to ours, bring in the candles. He knew that his,

0 (32m 22s):

Your job was to be in the legislature. So he was going to serve faithfully. Cause that's what he was already doing. And I think we need to do the same

1 (32m 30s):

Wherever we're serving in our church

0 (32m 32s):

Church and our families and our community at work, whatever we have been called by God to do, let's do it faith.

1 (32m 37s):

And if we're not, let's be faithful today and not wait till tomorrow. Let's pray, Lord God. I, I,

0 (32m 48s):

I think you're teaching us something so important today in this message. And in this series that we need to prepare right now for the end, because we don't know when it'll come. It could be even before this series is out or none of us could live to see

1 (32m 59s):

The day, but whatever

0 (33m 2s):

It is or God help us to be faithful

1 (33m 5s):

Today, not tomorrow, but today. And I pray that

0 (33m 8s):

In your Holy spirit, you would lead us to do the things we need to do. Give us the power and the strength to do them right now.

1 (33m 16s):

And with head bowed, bowed and eyes closed.

0 (33m 19s):

If you're here and you've never put your faith in Jesus Christ, you've never trusted in him and his death on the cross to forgive you of your sins. Let me tell you you're not ready for that day when it comes. And I want to encourage you, challenge you to be ready today, to accept Jesus as your Lord and

1 (33m 32s):

Savior, because then you

0 (33m 35s):

Will be ready. You will be forgiven and you will be celebrated and Jesus will serve you

1 (33m 41s):

And let you rule

0 (33m 42s):

With in the kingdom with him. So I just want to give you a chance to say a prayer to repeat after me. If you're ready to make Jesus, your Lord and savior and with everybody's heads, bowed, eyes closed. If you already are a follower of Jesus, I want you to say this prayer to you to give courage to the person next to you who needs to make this decision today, but let's all. Please just repeat this prayer

1 (33m 59s):

After me, dear God. Thank you for loving me. I'm a sinner. I need a savior. Forgive me, save me. I declare that Jesus is Lord. Fill me with your Holy spirit. Help me to follow you and serve at my post till the end. Amen. Now with eyes still closed.

0 (34m 37s):

You said that prayer for the first time and you meant it and you declared Jesus as your Lord and savior for the first time. Would you please just slip your hand up in the air or if you're online, go to rise,

denver.com/connect. Fill out that form and click the button that says I followed Jesus. I made a decision. I want to hear from you. I want to encourage you on this journey, Lord God, we all come to you because we all have things in our life that we need to change things that we've been putting off saying, Hey, when I'm older, when I'm more mature, after this happens, after I'm less busy, Lord God help us to do those things faithfully now to serve at our posts like we are called to and commanded to ready for your return at any time, knowing that it's not about storing up the most,

1 (35m 16s):

But serving at our posts,

0 (35m 19s):

Lord God, right now we worship you because you are the great father in heaven who loved us so much to send your son so that we could be your children. We worship you in Jesus name. Amen.