



## **Week 8: December 17, 2019**

### **“Parable of the Unfaithful Servant” Matthew 24:36-51**

<sup>36</sup> “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,<sup>[a]</sup> but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>42</sup> “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. <sup>45</sup> “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? <sup>46</sup> It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. <sup>47</sup> Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. <sup>48</sup> But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ <sup>49</sup> and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. <sup>50</sup> 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. <sup>51</sup> He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

#### **Quote:**

“Christians should live as if Jesus had died this morning, risen this afternoon, and was coming this evening.” Martin Luther

**Small group questions:**

1. What is one thing that was especially significant for you from today's passage?
2. How would you live differently if you fully believed that Jesus would return at any moment? Be honest with yourself and with one another. What would change about your habits, your thoughts, your lifestyle?
3. Antinomianism is the belief that Christians are released by grace from the obligation of observing the moral law. Where do you experience the heresy of antinomianism in your own life and in the community?
4. Looking back over the first half of Men's Life, what has been most significant for you personally? What spiritual risks have you taken? Take a moment to give thanks to God and close with the Prayer for Grace, acknowledging both the goodness and judgment of God.

**Prayer for Grace**

(Morning Prayer for Use in Families from *the Book of Common Prayer*, 1928)

God, imprint upon our hearts such a dread of thy judgments, and such a grateful sense of thy goodness to us, as may make us both afraid and ashamed to offend thee. And, above all, keep in our minds a lively remembrance of that great day, in which we must give a strict account of our thoughts, words and actions to him who has appointed the Judge of quick and dead, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.