

August 8, 2022

Luke 12:32-40

³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Parent’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. ³⁹“But know 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. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Today’s reading is complicated with possibly two themes running through it.

Jesus says, “Sell your possessions, and give alms. ... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” In Acts the first church in Jerusalem encouraged people to sell all they had when they joined the community.

I (and the bank) own a house. I am not selling it and giving Edgewood Church all the money. Sorry.

Am I a terrible follower of Jesus Christ? Is my heart with God or my own comfort?

How do you reconcile this in your life?

There is at least one other theme in today’s story: “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit.”

Essentially, “be prepared”.

Are we prepared to meet “the master”?

What does “prepared” look like?

Does the location of our “heart” affect our preparedness?

Keep Sweet: Pray and Obey is a documentary miniseries on Netflix about the polygamous Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FCLDS), an offshoot of mainstream Mormonism, and its leader Warren Jeffs.

FCLDS is an isolated and insulated group, which believes they are the true believers, the only ones going to heaven. The more wives a man has the more important and more welcome he is in heaven.

It is women, taught from infancy on, that they are to remain “sweet”; they are to “pray and obey” their husbands.

Leader Jeffs arranges the marriages, decides which men are the “chosen ones”. Girls as young as 13 are given as wives. Some men have 15 or more wives.

There are lots of children. However, as the girls are married off, there are a surplus of boys. Many of the boys are found to be “unworthy” and are cast out of the community.

Jeffs convinced his followers to move from one part of rural Utah to another remote

location near the Texas border. Everyone sold their houses and turned their businesses over to Jeffs, who then had complete control of the people and the community life.

This is not new. To “drink the Kool-Aid” is part of the American vernacular.