

Luke 12:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Analysis

Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching (μακάριοι οἱ δοῦλοι ἐκεῖνοι, οὓς ἐλθὼν ὁ κύριος εὑρήσει γρηγοροῦντας, makarioi hoi douloi ekeinoi, hous elthōn ho kyrios heurēsei grēgorountas)—The beatitude makarioi (μακάριοι, blessed, happy, favored) pronounces divine favor on watchful servants. The verb grēgoreō (γρηγορέω) means to watch, stay awake, be vigilant—used frequently in eschatological contexts (Matthew 24:42, 25:13, Mark 13:35). The future tense heurēsei (εὑρήσει, will find) points to Christ's return and evaluation of His servants' faithfulness.

Verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them (ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι περιζώσεται καὶ ἀνακλινεῖ αὐτοὺς καὶ παρελθὼν διακονήσει αὐτοῖς, amēn legō hymen hoti perizōsetai kai anaklinei autous kai parelthōn diakonēsei autois)—This stunning reversal defies all social expectations. The master girds himself (perizōsetai, περιζώσεται, will gird, the same verb as verse 35), seats the servants at table (anaklinei, ἀνακλινεῖ, recline/sit), and serves them (diakonēsei, διακονήσει, from diakoneō, to serve or minister). This pictures Christ's humility and grace: He who is Master becomes servant, echoing John 13:4-5 where Jesus girded Himself and washed the disciples' feet. The eschatological banquet becomes the servant's reward, but shockingly, the Master serves them.

Historical Context

This radical role reversal would astonish Jesus' hearers. Ancient Mediterranean culture was rigidly hierarchical—masters never served slaves; such an inversion was unthinkable. Yet Jesus consistently modeled servant leadership, declaring "I am among you as he that serveth" (Luke 22:27) and teaching that "the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister" (Mark 10:45). This parable foreshadows the Messianic banquet (Isaiah 25:6, Luke 22:30, Revelation 19:9) where faithful servants feast with their Lord, served by grace rather than merit.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does finding servants watching at Christ's return reveal about the nature of saving faith and true discipleship?
2. How does the Master girding Himself to serve watchful servants demonstrate the radical grace of Christ's reward?
3. In what ways does this promise of role reversal motivate present vigilance and faithful service despite difficulty?

Interlinear Text

μακάριοι	οἱ	δοῦλοι	ἐκεῖνοι	οὓς	ἐλθὼν	ὁ	κύριος
Blessed	G3588	servants	are those	whom	when he cometh	G3588	the lord
G3107		G1401	G1565	G3739	G2064		G2962
εὑρήσει	γρηγοροῦντας·	ἀμὴν	λέγω	ὑμῖν	ὅτι		
shall find	watching	verily	I say	unto you	that		
G2147	G1127	G281	G3004	G5213	G3754		
περιζώσεται	καὶ	ἀνακλινεῖ	αὐτοῖς	καὶ	παρελθὼν		
he shall gird himself	and	make	them	and	will come forth		
G4024	G2532	G347	G846	G2532	G3928		
διακονήσει	αὐτοῖς						
and serve	them						
G1247	G846						

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 3:14 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Matthew 24:42 (References Lord): Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

1 Corinthians 2:9 (Parallel theme): But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Philippians 1:23 (Parallel theme): For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

Revelation 14:13 (Blessing): And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Isaiah 62:5 (Parallel theme): For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

2 Peter 1:11 (References Lord): For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

John 12:26 (Parallel theme): If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Luke 21:36 (Parallel theme): Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org