

“Weather-Wise but Spiritually-Foolish!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. We move from the stewardship of **possessions** to the stewardship of **life & service!**
 - 1.1.1. It does this by dealing with a heart check towards Jesus' 2nd Coming.
 - 1.1.2. **Frank Robles went home to Glory this week.** (Kenny's dad)
 - 1.1.2.1. Missionaries to the *Samoan Islands*; *Alamos Mexico*, then Pastor over Spanish Fellowship for CCCM.
 - 1.1.2.2. **Last Baptism story!** His son Kenny said, we didn't have anything to go clean up. He didn't need anything. He was about his wife, kids, grandkids, & getting people to Jesus.
 - 1.1.2.2.1. *A steward of life & service!!!*
- 1.2. **From last week** – Living for **material possessions** can blind us to the future, & make us unprepared for the Lord's return.¹
 - 1.2.1. We can get so wrapped up in this **world's goods** that we neglect eternity.
- 1.3. **Outline:** *Waiting; Watching; Working; - Dividing; Discerning; Reconciling.*
- 1.4. **Intro background:**
 - 1.4.1. When a Master is away on journey his servants have to **wait** for his return & **keep watch** of the door.
 - 1.4.1.1. Easterners follow **no itinerary** & didn't have **watches**, so punctuality was unknown.
 - 1.4.2. When the Master is away the women & children **eat**, then the servants, then a portion is set aside for the Masters return.
 - 1.4.2.1. At **bed time** the women & children go to sleep but the servants must keep awake & be ready to serve their master when he gets back. *[it is a disgrace for the Master of a house to wait on himself or be locked out]*
 - 1.4.2.2. **Shrewd servants** would sneak in some **shut eye** doing their best to calculate the time of his return.
 - 1.4.2.3. **Faithful servants** would **never sleep**. No matter when he would return they would be on the watch; even at intervals going to the door, looking outside, & seeing if he's coming.
 - 1.4.3. **India illustration** (GFA, KP, Kerala) – received us very late. Met us at car to bring our things in. Went to kitchen to make us some toast.

¹ Warren Wiersbe; Outlines of the NT.

2. **WAITING!** (35,36)

- 2.1. **INSTRUCTION!** (35,36)
- 2.2. **Be ready!** – He requires vigilance, attentiveness, alertness, awareness.
- 2.3. **Waist girded** – long flowing robes gathered up, to free yourself for activity.
- 2.4. **Lamps burning** – required keeping your wick trimmed, & oil replenished.

3. **WATCHING!** (37-40)

- 3.1. **CELEBRATION!** (37,38)
- 3.2. Prepared ones will experience **great joy** at His return.
- 3.3. Note the double beatitude!
- 3.4. **CAUTION!** (39,40)
- 3.5. **Constant watchfulness** must be maintained.
- 3.6. He comes as **a thief** so we must be ready. (1 Thes.5:2; Rev.16:15)
- 3.7. We must be **looking** for His coming; **loving** it; & **longing** for His coming.
 - 3.7.1. 2 Tim.4:8 “**Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.**”
- 3.8. (40) **Therefore you also be ready!**
 - 3.8.1. A **visitor** to an elementary school told the children that **upon his return** he would give a prize to the student who had their **desk in best order**. “When will you return” they asked. He said, “I cannot tell”. A little girl, who was known for keeping a messy desk said she meant to win the prize. “**You!**” her schoolmates jeered, “**your desk is always out of order**”. “Oh, but I will clean at the **beginning** of every week!” “But what if he comes back at the **end** of the **week**?” “Then I will keep it clean **every morning**”. “But he may come at the **end** of the **day**”. She thought & then said, “I know what I’ll do, **I’ll just keep it clean.**”
 - 3.8.1.1. Our exhortation is to **Get Ready & Be Ready!**
- 3.9. **Show - 2 min. Rapture Clip.**
- 3.10. During his 1960 presidential campaign, John F. Kennedy often closed his speeches with the story of **Colonel Davenport**, the Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives. **One day in 1789, the sky of Hartford darkened ominously, and some of the representatives, glancing out the windows, feared the end was at hand.** Quelling a clamor for immediate adjournment, Davenport rose and said, “**The Day of Judgment is either approaching or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause for adjournment. If it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. Therefore, I wish that candles be brought.**” Rather than **fearing** what is to come, we are to be **faithful** till Christ returns. Instead of **fearing** the dark, we’re to be **lights** as we **watch** and **wait**. (Harry Heintz)

4. **WORKING! (41-48)**

- 4.1. To us or to all people? – Well I’m talking to My stewards; & of course you are stewards, but the door is open.
- 4.2. **REWARD!** (41-44)
- 4.3. **Faithfulness** during His absence = **Rewards** at His appearance.
- 4.4. **REBUKE!** (45-48)
- 4.5. **Faithlessness** during His absence = **Rebukes** at His appearance.
- 4.6. (45) As soon as we decide the Lord **isn’t** returning soon, **then** we start living for ourselves.
- 4.6.1. And this means judgment later(46).
- 4.6.2. To not **look** for, **long** for, nor **love** His coming, is to allow our hearts to grow cold & get worldly.

5. **DIVIDING! (49-53)**

- 5.1. **SUFFERING!** (49,50)
- 5.2. **Fire** – Primarily the refining fire of holiness & the ultimate fire of judgment against sin.²
- 5.3. He will literally be **baptized**(immersed/submerged) **on the cross w/His Fathers Wrath.**
- 5.3.1. **Used for:** as **ship** sunk beneath the waves; a **man** submerged in drink & therefore *dead-drunk*; a **scholar** submerged or sunk by an examiner’s questions; a **man** submerged in some grim & terrible experience.
- 5.3.2. Jesus’ baptism was “**total identification**” w/sinful mankind, in which he bears our sins & their punishment.
- 5.3.3. On the cross He felt **sorrow like the sea billows** of God’s judgment roll upon Him.
- 5.3.4. He could sing like *Horatio Spafford’s* famous hymn, “When peace like a river attendeth my way, **When sorrows like sea billows roll.** Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, It is well with my soul.” (story from 101 Hymn Stories)
- 5.4. The cross ever before his eyes!
- 5.5. *There was a **Knight** of Bethlehem, Whose wealth was tears & sorrows,
His men-at-arms were little lambs, His trumpeters were sparrows.
His castle was a wooden Cross On which he hung so high;
His helmet was a crown of thorns, Whose crest did touch the sky.* Barclay
- 5.6. **DIVISIONS!** (51-53)
- 5.7. The Gospel message will divide entire families.
- 5.7.1. Show of hands if when you got saved it caused some family frictions?
- 5.7.1.1. Families will be spilt down the middle over this issue.

² Jewish NT Commentary; Stern.

5.7.1.2. Jesus saw his **outcome** would be a **crisis** out of which would come judgment & division.

5.7.1.2.1. It is not Jesus' **goal** but it is **inevitable**.

Some chose to **follow** & some would chose to **reject** him!

5.7.2. Over & over again man had to decide whether he loved better his **kith-&-kin**, or **Christ!**

5.7.2.1. The essence of Christianity is that **loyalty to Christ** has to take precedence over the **dearest loyalties** of this earth.

5.7.2.2. To Count **all things lost** for **the excellence** of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.

5.7.3. **Wait! Isn't Jesus Pro-family? Yes**, "Pro-heavenly family 1st, & Pro-earthly family 2nd." - There's the true "*Focus on the Family!*"

6. **DISCERNING!** (54-56)

6.1. To his own **disciples** he entrusts them with information about His ministry, & about how to obey Him.

6.1.1. With **the crowds** His goal was to awaken them to their need to commit their lives to Him, & to become His disciples.

6.2. **WEATHER-WISE!** (54,55)

6.3. **Can discern weather, sky, clouds.**

6.4. **Clouds out of the west** – i.e. from over the **Mediterranean Sea**, they knew rain was on the way.

6.5. **South wind blow** – **Sirocco winds** are hot, humid, & dusty. They begin in the Sahara, come across the Mediterranean, thus picking up moisture.

6.6. **Especially in our modern world** – We can predict storms, give 15 day forecasts, tell you the day Halley's comet will return(2061), even put *a man on the moon!*

6.6.1. Isn't it amazing that we can take a **Katrina category 5 hurricane**, (U.S. history's deadliest hurricane) & reduce it to the size of our TV sets... *1 manageable little swirl of white clouds.*

6.7. Make your own illustration... **what are you great at discerning?**

6.7.1. Are you a News Junkie? Consider yourself a Political Analyst that can tell what's going on in every nation, with every country's leader?

6.7.2. It's **not wrong** to be **weather-wise**, matter of fact it is **perfectly normal**, **but** it should also be normal to seek **spiritual things**.

6.8. **SPIRITUALLY-FOOLISH!** (56)

6.9. **Cannot discern the spiritual crisis all around them.**

6.9.1. **Weather-wise & Spiritually-foolish!**

6.9.1.1. You know all about the **wind** but nothing of the wind of the **Spirit**

6.9.1.2. You know all about the **sky** but have never looked past it!

6.9.2. Either they **could not** or **would not** discern *the signs of the times!*

6.9.3. **But how is it???**

7. RECONCILING! (57-59)

- 7.1. A great appeal to “*get right with God!*”
- 7.2. **SETTLEMENT!** (57,58a)
- 7.3. Try to settle **before court!**
- 7.4. A very **vivid illustration** for when one is **threatened** with a **lawsuit**.
- 7.5. **IMPRISONMENT!** (58b,59)
- 7.6. It may result in **imprisonment!**
- 7.7. **Last mite** = lepton “the thin one”; the smallest of coins worth 1/32 of 1 penny.
- 7.8. He names 4 officers of the court:
- 7.8.1. **Adversary** – The legal opponent.
- 7.8.2. **Magistrate** – The ruler, the 1st in rank.
- 7.8.3. **Judge** – The one who made the decisions.
- 7.8.4. **Officer** – The one who carried out the sentence of the judge.
- 7.8.5. In the ultimate court of life: the **adversary** is God; the **magistrate** is God; the **judge** is God; the **officer** is God.
- 7.8.5.1. Our 1st & last allegiance is to God!
- 7.8.5.2. **Read** what **Isaiah** says regarding how God judges **Is.11:3,4a**.
- 7.9. The assumption is that **the defendant** has a **bad case** which will inevitably **go against him**.
- 7.9.1. **Every man** has a **bad case** in the presence of God; & if you are wise, you will make your **peace w/God while yet there is time!**³
- 7.9.2. Some things a man cannot afford to put off; above all, making his **peace with God**.
- 7.9.3. **Q: Have you made yours?** – “**make every effort along the way to settle with Him**”...here is another chance along **your way**.
- 7.9.3.1. **On the cross** the Father looked upon the **Son** as if he lived **your life; & looks upon you as if you lived His!**

³ William Barclay; Luke.