

## **The Parable of the Serving Master Luke 12 v35-38.**

<sup>35</sup> *“Let your waist be girded, and your lamps burning: <sup>36</sup>and be like people who are expecting their master when he withdraws from the wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks, immediately they may open to him. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves, who coming, the master finds awake. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself and cause them to recline (and eat), and come to them and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If, in the second or third watch, he comes and finds this, blessed are those slaves.”*

Today we are looking at a little known story Jesus told, that I call the parable of the serving master. It is one of a number of parables which involve ‘waiting’.

### **Hot Coffee**

In my first job as a graduate engineer I worked for a firm that were one of the world leaders in seals and gaskets. I was first in the main office on this day, and got myself a coffee from the machine. It was boiling hot and came in a plastic cup with a tiny rim. I had no cup holder, but could carry it carefully to my desk, by just holding the rim. I should have put it down to let it cool, but I don’t waiting and wanted to sip my coffee the second it was cool enough not to burn my lips. So I sat there holding it in front of me, precariously by the rim, just staring at it. I had not seen him arrive at my desk. A giant of a man, rarely seen in the open plan office. It was my technical director. ‘Oh, Kevin’ he said. I was so surprised by his appearance it made me jump, and some of the steaming coffee jettisoned out all over my tie. We were both embarrassed. I then tried to talk calmly to him as if nothing had happened. I had not anticipated the arrival of the top man. I wasn’t ready for him.

### **The Waiting Room.**

I have never been good at waiting. Sometimes we are forced to wait, perhaps even for long periods, where we end up in life’s waiting room.

What puts us there? It could be an illness, a relationship breakdown, or a financial impact that has rocked our world. It may be we are in that difficult period of our Christian lives, between spiritual seasons, where God does not seem to be anywhere and we feel abandoned. We describe this as our valley period, or perhaps the dark night of the soul. It may be that we are under attack right now from our spiritual enemies which has driven us backwards. We may be undergoing a trial that seems like it will never end.

It’s not where we would choose to be. We may have ended up there without any warning. Our wings are clipped, and we have a new set of boundaries, tighter and more confining.

As I first reflected on this parable, I had already been in the waiting room for 10 weeks, locked down in the Covid-19 global pandemic. I couldn’t see my children even on their birthday. I was isolated from seeing both my mother who lives a 90 minute drive away, and my father who was very ill in a nursing home. I couldn’t see in person my work colleagues, or my friends. I was missing sitting in a café with my hot coffee. Everything was now on-line, but I was missing worshipping in church. Our Easter mission trip to North Macedonia and conference had been cancelled. Life had suddenly and dramatically changed, and I still had no clear idea when my freedoms would return.

### **The awaited**

So if you find yourself in life’s waiting room, then what or who are you actually waiting for?

In our confinement it would be too simple to just focus on what we have lost and wait for them to be returned to us; our health, our security, our happiness, our freedom etc. But if we are living in the Kingdom of God we should be waiting, expecting and anticipating the arrival of both the Holy Spirit, and Jesus. Even it feels like they have abandoned you, they haven’t. Jesus promised he would never leave you. So never give up. Wait for them.

In one sense we don't **need** to wait for them, because they are always with us. Jesus promised he would never leave his disciple, he would always be with them in spirit, and that applies to me and you. Even if you are in a period where God seems distant, he is still with you. We just may not be aware of their presence.

However we are not always **aware** of their presence.

When we say we are waiting for **Jesus** to come it is because he promised that he would one day physically return to earth. It is referred to as his second coming and will be the end of the current world as we know it. We have no idea when this will be despite what some say, but we need to keep watching and waiting for his return, so we are ready if he does so on our watch. The return of Jesus, is our promised **future** Kingdom life, the new Heaven and Earth. That is our future destiny.

Now, when we say we are waiting for the Holy Spirit to come, we are generally talking about him breaking through to earth perhaps in a show of wonders and miracles, ideally with us serving him in the thick of it. That doesn't preclude the Holy Spirit doing a deep work in our lives in our solitude, whether we can feel his presence or not. The Holy Spirit coming to us, and working in us, is Kingdom Life now. That is our present reality. We **wait** on the Holy Spirit to move in our lives, because that's where the action is. That's where the party is.

### **Be on the List**

Jesus told a number of parables that involved waiting and watching for Him to come, or His power to come. One of these is the Parable of the Serving Master in Luke's Gospel (12 v35-38). It is short, but it contains some rich teaching on 'waiting'. It is one of a number of parables Jesus told, which involve waiting for a wedding feast, a party or a banquet. There is no point though waiting for the big occasion if you have not got an invite. So the first **vital** step is to get yourself one, get your name down on the party list. Without that, you're going nowhere.

Some-one once shouted out to Jesus "How happy are those who will sit down at the feast in **the Kingdom of God.**" In response he told the parable of the great Banquet (Luke 14v 16-24) where the wealthy landowner was putting on this great party, one fit for a king, with all the best meats and wines. Once ready, he sends out his messenger to go and see those who had already accepted invites to the party, and say come, the hour is here. However those he went to starting making ridiculous excuses not to come. So he sends out his messengers to round up, all the outcasts, the poor, and the crippled, and put them at the table instead. They came, without any excuses. This was just like the outcasts in the time of Jesus responding to his invites, whilst many of the religious Jews rejected him, and thus rejected his invite to be a part of this new spirit filled Kingdom of God.

The outcasts in the parable included non Jews like us, the Gentiles. We are invited to this Messianic Banquet. It is a picture of salvation and what we will receive in the end times. We are going to be with Jesus for eternity. How cool is that? But we still have to **accept** the invite. Too many people make terrible excuses why they can't accept the invitation of Jesus. The servant in the story is the evangelist. But it's not the servant that the people are offending when they refuse, it's the master. When some-one tells us about Jesus and we reject the message of forgiveness, and salvation, then we are turning down the Kingdom of God. But it's not the evangelist, who is the messenger, that you are turning down, it's God. This is a direct invite from Him. You are turning down a personal invite from God. So if we turn this invite down, or even if we pretend we're going to go, but then don't, we will never taste the banquet. We will never sample kingdom life, not now or in the future world to come. We will not inherit eternal life. We are given an opportunity by God, but if we don't accept the invite, by accepting Jesus, then others will be found to take our place.

So you readily listen to the message of forgiveness and salvation, made possible through the death of Jesus on the cross, and you clutch onto your invite firmly. It's like when against the odds, you actually managed to get hold of a ticket to a top occasion perhaps a dinner party at Buckingham palace, then you

clutch that ticket hard, you don't want to lose it. But you don't just need to have the ticket to get into the party, you need to be wearing the right clothes.

## Be properly dressed

Tony Campolo wrote an excellent book called the Kingdom of God is a party. Now we need to be at that party, and to get in, we need to accept an invite, and we need to adhere to the dress code. We can all picture a burly bouncer dressed in black, halting your progress into the private party, and pulling out a list of names to check. If your names not down, you are not coming in. Then he checks you up and down for jeans, trainers or any other offending clothing because even in you have been invited and accepted it, you still need to be dressed right.

Jesus told another parable about a wedding feast that a king was holding for his son (Matthew 22 v1-14). It follows a similar pattern with many refusing to come and even getting violent with the messengers. But the King filled the wedding hall with people invited off the streets. But then the King points out a man that is not wearing wedding clothes. He knows him and calls him friend, but challenges him, on how he got in. The man has no response. Why, because he has been caught out. He knows he should not be there.

The implication here is that although the good and the bad were coerced in off the streets, each one of them **chose** to accept the invite, **and** put on wedding clothes. The imposter had not. At the kings command, he gets tied up by the servants, and thrown out into the darkness !

What are these wedding clothes, that make them so important. If the Kingdom of God is a party, in the presence of God, then to be at that party you need to be acceptably attired to be in his presence. Of course this is not a change to your physical appearance like normal clothes, but to your spiritual appearance. The bible talks about putting on the cloak of righteousness. This has nothing to do with our own right living or good deeds, this righteousness comes from Jesus, when we confess to Him and accept him into our lives. If you like, it cloaks all the wrong we have done and it neutralises the stench of any evil in our lives, so when God looks at us he just sees the goodness of Jesus on us, and not all the wrong we have done. Without that cloak of righteousness, we bring the fumes of evil into God presence which can't co-exist with his goodness, and we are thrown out. We need that conversion experience of having accepted Jesus into him, and be following him, to be wearing that cloak of righteousness. That's the dress code.

Sadly there are some who are a big part of a church life, but have never accepted Jesus into their lives. Perhaps that's because initially they were invited to come to church, and not invited to come to Jesus. There is a lot about the meetings and the church social life they love. External appearances, it may be hard to tell the difference, but they won't be experiencing the Holy Spirit in their lives, they won't be enjoying the presence of God, because they have never made the bold step of accepting Jesus, and giving him control. It may not be obvious to us, but it's obvious to God. If they came into the end time party, clutching an invite but not dressed in the righteousness of Jesus, then they will be thrown out.

These parables show us that that there are no valid excuses for not accepting what Jesus has done for you on the cross. We can not be in the presence of God without Jesus. Without him, we are not dressed for living in the Kingdom of God now, or in the future.

## Ready for Action

The 'parable of the serving master', starts:-

<sup>v35</sup> ***“Let your waist be girded, and your lamps burning”***

The focus of this parable is on a group of servants. They are **waiting**. These guys have already accepted the invite, and have adhered to the dressed code. They have giving control of their lives over to their Master, and they are waiting for **Him**, waiting for His instructions. This is not an oppressed servitude. Quite the opposite. The Church of England liturgy includes the phrase ' To serve you is

perfect freedom'. These servants **want** to serve the Master, they want to be in His employ, part of His team, involved in His work, right in the thick of the action alongside Him. Yes. Yes Yes. That's where it's at. That's the Kingdom, that's the party, and it's worth waiting for.

Jesus starts by painting two images. He tells the servants to gird their waists, in other words 'belt their robes ready for action', and to keep their lamps burning.

In a hot climate, loose robes are the norm. The long robes of the Middle East nearly touched the ground, and worn without belts. Any-one going to do manual work, or travel a distance, or do any strenuous activity, needed to put on a belt or rope, and tuck their robe up into. That is where the phrase 'gird your loins' comes from, and today is used to express how you prepare and strengthen yourself for future actions, typically ones that may be dangerous or difficult.

These servants are dressed ready for action, and will take on any task, no matter how demanding or strenuous it is.

Also they have got to keep their lamps burning. They may not need the light straight away if they are just waiting, but they need to be ready for when the master comes. Growing up, I lived through many power cuts in my home village of Cheddar, and you had to be ready for them. You didn't want to be caught out. "Where's the torch? Where are the candles, where are the matches?" The oil lamp in the time of Jesus, would have been difficult to get going in a hurry at night, when you couldn't see the wick to prepare it, or find the oil to keep it going. Jesus is saying Keep the flame burning guys. Stay in the light.

He says to us, ' Be ready like these servants, for whatever comes. Be dressed for action, and have the light on. Be alert.

### **Alert or day-dreaming? – The 10 young women**

There are those believers who have the tickets for kingdom living, and may be dressed for it, but they are day-dreaming. They have **not** been using their waiting time productively and are day-dreaming.

Jesus told a parable about 10 young women, who were waiting for the groom to come, and take them to the wedding banquet. All ten had tickets, they had followed the dress-code. The cry went out the 'groom is coming', and they were anticipating his arrival with the lamps lit ready to walk out in the night. As young women, it was culturally essential that they carried lamps at night. Sounds good so far. So what went wrong? The time of waiting was much longer than they had expected. The oil in each lamp had run out, and the five that were ready and prepared, had brought spare oil, just in case. The other girls has to go and get some more oil, but whilst they were away, the groom came and picked up the girls that were prepared. The other girls were back too late and got locked out of the banquet. Those who were actively waiting and preparing themselves well enjoyed the wedding feast; the Kingdom party.

### **The Master comes**

*<sup>36</sup>.. be like people who are expecting their master when he withdraws from the wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks, immediately they may open to him.*

There are two key words in this passage, which the Greek allows to be translated into subtly different ways. So our english translations have the servants waiting for the Master to return. So this implies a passive waiting, like waiting for a bus, for an unknown time at which the wedding feast will end and the Master will naturally return home. Whereas translations from cultures more similar to that of Jesus, may take the alternative allowable meanings of the words, and have the servants not just waiting but expecting, such as when you are sat in the cinema expectant for the opening scenes of the blockbuster to start rolling. Also here, the Master is not returning from the wedding banquet when its all over, but withdrawing from it whilst it is still going on.

The pictures painted are similar, but the latter does allow a richer interpretation which we can explore. In this interpretation, the Master is still enjoying the wedding feast, but slips away quietly. He doesn't travel home which he would of if he had left, but he withdraws to another room, to the room where the servants are. So they are in the same building. This is the Masters house.

He knocks on the door. But why? Why doesn't he just walk in. Perhaps he asked for internal doors to be locked so that wedding guests did not wander off into rooms they should not have been in. I remember being at a house party as a teenager, and wandered off looking for a bathroom because the toilet was engaged, and ended up in the bedroom of my friends parents. As I walked through the door the light went on, and I had to apologise to his parents who were in their bed ! Normally, you would call out to your friend or household member if the door was locked, not knock on the door. This way they would recognise your voice, and know if it was some-one friendly and safe to unlock the door. But in this situation if he shouted out to his servants, and his voice reverberated around the house, it would be more obvious that he had left the wedding feast. If he whispered, his voice would not be heard. So he knocks gently on the door. Immediately the door is answered. Why because the servants are just behind the door ready and waiting for their Master, waiting and wanting to serve him.

They have not sat around staring into space, holding a hot coffee by the rim. They are not startled when the Top Man comes to them. This is what they have been anticipating. His arrival is a joy to them not a shock to them.

Lets go back to my first job. What if I had put my coffee cup on my desk to cool down, and I had been alert to my surroundings. I see my Technical director coming to my desk and give him a friendly smile. "Good morning Chris, how are you? This is a nice surprise, how can I help you this morning? ". Then the director looks down at my cup of poor vending machine coffee, and said to me. 'Yes, Kevin good morning. I know you have just graduated from University with a first, and I have a technical problem I was looking for some advice on. But first come with me to my office in the directors suite. I've got a couple of nice leather chairs there, and you can sit down for a bit, make yourself comfortable, whilst I make you a nice cup of fresh filtered coffee, with hot milk too if you like. How cool would that have been, to have been served by your big boss?

## **Slaves are blessed**

*<sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves, who coming, the master finds awake.*

The term used in the parable for the servants is 'slaves'. So in the hierarchy of a prominent household, they are at the bottom of the pile. There is the Master himself, the good lady and their children, then the households steward, his foreman, then the permanent employees, the day hire workers, and then finally the slaves. In the culture they are the least important, which makes this parable so powerful. Paul taps into this imagery when he calls himself a 'slave of Jesus Christ' (e.g. Romans 1v1).

Jesus says twice in these 4 short verses, that the slaves are blessed. The Greek word used for this is 'Makarios' which refers to a state of blessing that they are already living in. Not one brought by an event such as a new baby, or a lottery win. They are already living in the blessing. They are already living Kingdom life. They do not receive the blessing from the Master because of something that they do, they don't earn it. They already have it, and their behaviour is an expression of them living in that blessing. This is paralleled in the Beatitudes which Jesus gives in the Sermon of the Mount. Like 'blessed are the peace-makers'. They are not rewarded with a blessing because of their peace-making activities, but they bring peace into situations because they are already living a blessed kingdom life. Get it?

## The Serving Master

So returning to verse 37, it continues..

*37b Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself and cause them to recline (and eat), and come to them and serve them*

So why did the Master, withdraw from this top notch wedding banquet party that he's hosting. What could possibly be that important?

Whenever the phrase 'Amen I say to you' is used, Jesus is preparing you for something or outstanding. And in the culture within which it was returning this verse is both powerful and astonishing. The Master, doesn't inspect the slaves, then give them their instructions like they are anticipating. Instead he girds his own loins, tucking his wedding day gown into his belt, then invites the slaves to recline.

There would be instant disbelief and refusal out of politeness. This is your special furniture, where you recline with your wife, it is your dining room where you serve your honoured guests? I couldn't possibly recline here, could I? But the Master is insistent that they relax. What's he going to do?

He serves them food. He does not need food himself, because he has just come out the banquet, and perhaps just behind the door that he came through he had put down some trays of food, that he had brought to them. Now he brings them in and invites the slaves to eat from his platter, to share in the banquet food. The Master becomes the servant. This parable is so counter-cultural to that day, it was outrageous, that a Master would do such a thing. But this too is Kingdom life. This is how our Lord Jesus behaves in the Kingdom of God.

## Eating the Passover meal again

Jesus at the last supper, said to his disciples those famous words that he would not eat the Passover meal again until it was given its full meaning in the Kingdom of God. So for those that live that Kingdom life, the meal has indeed now been given its full meaning. The bread represented his body given and broken for me. I have accepted that sacrifice of his broken body as a gift that brings me the forgiveness that I don't deserve. The wine represented his blood which was poured out for me, which seals a new agreement. The terms of this new covenant means that because of his spilt blood, I am clothed in righteousness, and can come into the presence of God, and fully enter into Kingdom life. That means that despite me being a servant and Him being my Master and Lord, he can eat the Passover meal again, this time with me. He can serve it to **me** now, and to all his other servants, all his new disciples, those who stay awake, and anticipate him coming to them. Of course, this new Passover meal that he shares with us now, is our spiritual food not our physical food. It is us being in his presence, being filled with His Spirit, sharing in His joy, tasting His glory.

When Jesus washed his disciples feet at the Last Supper, Peter complained and initially refused. But Jesus insisted. When He comes to you. Let him serve you. Don't turn down any good gifts from God. Don't shy away from his presence.

Our lives may have been a mess, and our sins countless, and we may still struggle and fail in so many ways. But we accepted the invite, and followed the dress code by putting on Jesus.. We may see ourselves as the lowest in the kingdom of God, but our Master loves us through and through, and serves us his servants with good things. We already live in the blessing, but he adds blessing to our blessing! Jesus is in his own parable. He is the servant master; He is the Servant King.

## Preparing in the Waiting

*38 If, in the second or third watch, he comes and finds this, blessed are those slaves."*

Jesus warns us that we could be waiting a long time. This second watch is midnight. The third watch is 2am. But however long it takes, the instruction is the same, Have your oil lamps burning, and be dressed ready. You will be blessed.

## How to behave in the waiting room: -

### 1. Dignify the Trial

How should we behave when we are in the waiting room, especially when weeks turn into months and there is no clear date to when the door will be opened. God may be using this time to assess your heart, to see how you react to your trial, to your confinement.

In the pandemic there have been those who **dignify themselves** in the trial, and those who haven't. Professions and individuals that step forward and do whatever it takes to keep people alive, or keep the whole vital structure of our economy going, with food, power, fuel etc.

Then there are those who act embarrassingly, including those early on, who at the expense of others filled whole shopping trollies with pasta and toilet rolls at the first suggestion of a shortage. Those later that found loop-holes in the governments financial provision and took money when they didn't need it or weren't entitled to it. Then later still there were those professions and individuals who didn't play their part in helping the UK recover, and intended to stay off as long as they could on their furlough pay or whatever.

But look deeper, and ask yourself, how have I dignified my **own** trial ? Have I personally risen to the challenge, looked at the new set of cards I have been dealt, and made the most of them. Or have I moaned and complained throughout the whole thing? Have I allowed God to teach me daily throughout this experience, or will I come out the end of this with a Dunce cap on, having learnt nothing. My self-evaluation in this area during the pandemic is a mixed picture. I could certainly have done better.

As Christians, we **will** have trials, the Gospel tells us that. As much as we may not want them, they are a part of our Kingdom life, in which we are expected to dignify the trial, be a good witness in the trial, and learn from it.

### Stay Alert

One of the key messages in the UK pandemic lockdown **changed** after 2 months from 'Stay at home' to 'Stay Alert'.

If we are actively waiting, alert and observant, we are better placed to the signs that things are **about** to change. If you went out on a clear sunny day, then later you see the clouds, and feel some light rain, and you pay attention to these, then you would be wise to prepare for the coming downpour. A great revival, or outpouring of the Holy Spirit may be starting with a few small break-throughs. Ignore them, and you might be unprepared when God breaks through in revival power, and others who were ready may be used instead of you. You might end up watching the party from a distance. Be ready. Keep watchful.

Expect answers to your prayers, even if you have been waiting a very long time already. Zechariah so much had wanted a son throughout his life, and no doubt prayed this for years, but then when the great news came through, that his elderly wife was expecting a future 'John the Baptist', he wasn't ready. He had forgotten his prayers, and started arguing with an angel that it was too late (Luke 1 v 18). Instead of embracing the miracle, celebrating the good news that day, and shouting the good news to his neighbours, he was struck dumb for his audacity. You may have prayed for something a long time, don't give up on the answer, be ready for it.

The active waiting, and expectancy of the servants in the parable is part of that blessed life. They are not sat at home miserably thinking when he's going to arrive so we can do something useful for a change, and fulfil our purpose. They are already fulfilling part of their purpose, which is to be available to the Master, to be a willing volunteer, to be prepared, and anticipating some action. The waiting, is actually an important part of Kingdom life. So when there is a job to be done, Jesus can scan the globe, to see where the willing and prepared hearts are, and assign the job to some-one that's already prepared and anticipating doing something great for God.

## The Act of Preparation

The message is the same today. Be Ready and keep your lamp burning.

Today, the oil in our lamps represents the Holy Spirit in us, and in these end days we need to be inviting the Holy spirit into our lives, and making ourselves available for when he wants to show up in power and use us. In our active waiting, we need to be pressing into the spiritual gifts, asking for them, and learning how to use them, and grow in them. Then we are better equipped to serve God, and get the most we can from our kingdom living when our assignments come.

We also need to be using this time of waiting to be ready ourselves for spiritual warfare, putting on the armour of God (as Paul describes it in his letter to the Ephesians: 6v10-18). In our active waiting, we can be digging into the bible to uncover more of its truth, which is our **belt**. Let those promises in the word of God build up our faith, which is our **shield**. This word of God used in prayer through the Spirit is our **sword** to both defend us and attack our spiritual enemies. Your mind should be undergoing renewal, as you are restored in this time by the salvation power of God, which is your **helmet**. We in this time of waiting must keep doing what we know is right by God, because our righteousness is our **breast-plate**. We need to stand firm for Him and let His peace rule over our hearts and minds. This is our **shoes of readiness** because it allows us to focus again on Him and not on our anxieties. We are then ready for when he turns up again, when we emerge from the waiting room, alert, fit and ready to serve.

Paul himself was locked down, literally, when he wrote to the Philippians. In his confinement, he said that his number one priority was to know Christ, to experience His resurrection power, and share in His sufferings (Phil 3v10).

With my sons, we have a phrase we often use in fun to rib each other, but it is also to encourage each other to rise to the challenge and get things done, to make the most of our time. We say ' No Slackers'.

I was listening to a talk by the Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger who was talking about the importance of a vision, knowing what you want and where you are going, then putting the effort in. He came over to the states from Austria as a migrant teenager to become a body-builder. He worked on a construction site to earn money, but still managed to do 5 hours of body-building, and 4 hours of acting college, every day ! He never gave up through the long hours of hard work and pain, and he became the youngest Mr Universe at the age of 20, and went on to star in dozens of films, action movies, sci-fis, and comedies. No slacking there.

We may have to wait, even for a long time. But we wait actively. I have a friend, Simon, who is a pioneer missionary that has achieved amazing things in his walk for God, especially in Burundi Africa, but he was unexpectedly laid low with an illness for many months that he could see no end of. Yet in that time, he wrote this incredibly motivating daily devotional, which I still go back to again and again. If we are in the waiting room, we may have to wait, perhaps for a very long time, but we can be active in out waiting.

How did you respond to your last time of confinement. How's life been in your waiting room. Did you take it on board with dignity and learn what you could in your new season, or did you complain all the way through it and learn nothing, achieve nothing?

## Conclusion

So we are not getting into any formal party without a valid ticket and adhering to the dress code. In the same way we will not enter into the party world of kingdom life without accepting the ticket of salvation, through what Jesus did for us on the cross, and then dressing ourselves in Jesus by inviting him into our lives so we are clothed in his righteousness. In doing so we become a child of God, and he will never leave us, but we may end up in a waiting room, waiting for his next move in our lives, and it could be a long wait.



Whatever is happening to you now, and however long it is taking, it is still **temporary**. You are **not** forgotten. You will feel his presence again. Whatever pain or difficulty you are suffering will pass, either in the present reality or the future one. Your life now, is not worldly living, but is kingdom living, and that is true whether you are in the waiting room, or at the party.

Are you actively waiting, preparing, studying, praying, getting to know Christ, experiencing His resurrection power in your confinement and sharing in His sufferings, without too much complaint ! That is kingdom life.

Or have you have been released into His service, empowered by His Holy Spirt, with God going before you to prepare the good works for you to do, and then blessing you in the doing. When you are in the thick of action for Jesus, it's what I call Gods great dance floor. This is party life, **and** this is kingdom life **too**.

Jesus wants you to be available to Him, be alert and prepared for service as much as you can, but he also loves you. He loves you, he loves you, he loves you and he **wants** to serve **you** too. This is our God of love, this is our servant king.

So be blessed in the serving, and be blessed in the waiting. Amen.