

Throughout the New Testament, Christians are continually warned to always be ready for the Lord's return, lest that Day catch them by surprise!

Jesus Himself gave numerous parables to illustrate the point and what would happen to those who failed to heed His advice. We know the Parable of the Ten Virgins, and in the Gospel according to Luke, the Lord says:

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.

(Luke 12:39-40)

The New Testament also gives clear instructions on HOW to be ready for the Lord's coming. We are told to know the signs of the times in which we live, to be active in prayer, to be detached from worldly things, to share the Good News, expose impostors in the Church, and, more important, to love your brothers and sisters in Christ!

Therefore, completely out of place is back-stabbing and running down your Pastor and fellow believers, especially in the company of new arrivals to your Local Assembly! If you have issues with them, the Bible provides the correct procedure to take!

That established, in this same passage from Luke we learn something even more interesting. After warning His Disciples of their need to keep watch and be ready, Peter asked if the parable was for them or for everyone. Probably what he meant was if the warning was for all believers, or only for a special class, like those in positions of leadership. Jesus' reply removes all doubt:

The servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready, or does not do what his master wants, will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows.

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

(Luke 12:47-49)

The warning is for everyone who defines himself Christian, but the passage also implies that there will be varying degrees of punishment in Hell! One commentator puts it aptly, where he wrote: "God looks upon wicked, loose, scandalous and mischievous ministers as the greatest transgressors, and He will deal with them as such."