God Family Country

GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

When Answered Prayers Require Work

Speaker: Donnie Thomas

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Highlighted Scripture

- **Luke 12:48 (CSB)**

  "But the one who did not know and did what deserved punishment will receive a light beating. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, even more will be expected."

  Jesus warns His servants to be ready for His return and faithful with what their Master entrusts to them. Knowledge brings accountability; receiving much brings responsibility. Donnie applies this to gifts whose care can begin to feel burdensome: a home, work, relationships, and opportunities to serve. The passage calls for faithful stewardship, not a promise of comfort or material success. Gratefully caring for what God has entrusted to us is one practical response.

Discussion Questions

- Donnie realized that cleaning up his property meant caring for something he had prayed for. What responsibility in your life looks different when you remember the gift behind it?
- In Luke 12:48, what does being entrusted with much require of us? How does that challenge treating our abilities, possessions, or opportunities as ours alone?
- Donnie names health, tools, and resources that make his work possible. What help have you been overlooking, and how might you use it to serve someone else?
- How do God's Word and the Holy Spirit shape the steady care you give your spiritual walk?
- How can you practice gratitude while honestly admitting exhaustion or loss? What would compassionate, practical support look like for someone facing a storm right now?

Reflection Challenge

Choose one responsibility you resent. Thank God for the gift behind it, then care for it this week.

Ask yourself:

- What did I once pray for that now requires my time, patience, or effort?
- Am I caring for this gift in a way that honors God and benefits others?
- Where do I need God's help, a wiser rhythm, or another person's support?

Try this:

- Name the gift and its responsibility in writing: 'I am thankful for ____. Today I can care for it by ____.'
- Set aside a realistic block of time for that task. Begin with a short prayer of thanks; ask for help if needed.
- Read Luke 12:48 again. Identify one thing you know God calls you to do, and take a concrete step of obedience.
- Pray for someone facing loss or cleanup after a storm. Offer one useful form of support that you can actually provide.

Remember

- Answered prayer can bring responsibilities as well as joy.
- What God entrusts to us is an opportunity for faithful service.
- Gratitude can change our attitude even when the work remains.
- Spiritual growth deserves steady attention, too.
- We can admit weariness and receive help without abandoning gratitude.
- Faithfulness is not measured by wealth or freedom from hardship.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the people, abilities, and opportunities You have entrusted to me. Forgive me for overlooking Your gifts when caring for them becomes difficult. Give me a grateful heart and the willingness to do the work before me. Help me recognize my limits, receive help humbly, and use what I have to serve others. Through Your Word and Spirit, teach me to walk faithfully with You. Comfort those facing storms and loss, and show me how to offer practical care.

In Jesus' name, Amen.