



First Baptist Church Selmer

TRANSFORMED: FROM DEATH TO LIFE TO ABUNDANT LIFE • READINESS •
LUKE 12:35-48 • 6/30/2024

MAIN POINT

As followers of Jesus, we should live with anticipation of His return, spiritually growing and sharing the Gospel with others.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What has been the hardest thing to wait for in life? (For example, marrying, graduating, being promoted, having children, etc.)

How did you handle, or how are you handling, the waiting process?

Is waiting easy or challenging for you? Why do you think that is?

What role does waiting play in your relationship with God?

We live in the “already, but not yet” time of God’s kingdom. The kingdom came to earth when Jesus was born, but it won’t be completely redeemed—restored to God’s perfect design—until the new heaven and the new earth come following Jesus’ return (see Rev. 21). This waiting period can be painful. The pain of waiting makes us long for Jesus to come back. This week, we’ll see that as we endure the wait, we can take steps to be prepared for His return. Our spiritual growth and ministry, in the meantime, gives our wait purpose.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 12:35-40.

35 "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, 36 and be like men who are watching for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. 37 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. 38 If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! 39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. 40 You must also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (ESV)

The section begins simply with a command to be ready and to have a lamp already lit for the master's return. If the servants are prepared when their master comes, they will be blessed, for the master will actually wait on them and share in the banquet feast.

What is the importance of eagerly waiting for Jesus' return?

In what ways are you ready for Christ to come again? In what ways are you not ready? Why?

Be honest. To what extent does an eternal perspective impact the way you live today?

The second half of this passage serves more as a warning (vv. 39-40). It involves a homeowner unaware that a burglar is seeking to break into his home. If he had expected a thief to come in the night, he would have been prepared. Similarly, the believer is to believe in and expect the coming of the Son of Man, preparing for His arrival at an unannounced time.

What does being prepared mean to you?

If Jesus were to come back today, would he find you living obediently or not? Why should we take this more seriously?

The point of this story is that we must practice constant readiness. Waiting for the master to return means waiting for Christ's second coming. We don't know when He will return, so we must be ready.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 12:41-48.

41 "Peter said, 'Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?' 42 And the Lord said, 'Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time?' 43 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 44 Truly I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. 45 But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming, and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, 46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. 47 And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. 48 But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.'" (ESV)

What are the actions and attitudes of the faithful and wise manager (vv. 42-43)?

What has God entrusted to you as His manager?

Verse 45 describes various things that tempted the servants to be impatient in the wait. What things tempt you to live for the now, rather than anticipating Jesus' return and working for His kingdom?

What is the meaning of verse 48? How would the disciples have interpreted it?

Fake discipleship—discipleship without dedication to Jesus—does not fool the Lord. He will bring just punishment for it. The servant unprepared for the master's return finds himself suffering the flogging and punishment any unfaithful servant would endure. The story in verses 35-40 emphasize that the master's servant should be watching, but this story makes it clear that the servant must also be working. Disciples who persevere in faithfulness will be rewarded by the master.

The principle of Christ's kingdom is clear: we are responsible in proportion to the task given. The more God gives you opportunity to do, the more He requires of you and the harsher the punishment for not being faithful. Thus, Peter's question finds something of an answer. The parable is spoken to everyone, or at least everyone who belongs in the family of God. All are servants in His household, but some servants have more

responsibility. They have become leaders over others. They must pay special attention to the parable. They face greater accountability in being wise and faithful in carrying out their leadership.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

In Luke 12:40, Jesus reminds His followers that *“the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.”* What things are distracting you from always being alert for Jesus’ return?

What actions can you take this week to be alert?

Was there a time in your past in which you were not prepared for Christ’s return? What changed?

PRAYER

Close in prayer, asking God to help you convey to unbelievers the urgency of responding to the gospel. Also confess to God the things that distract you from waiting for Him and ask Him for the strength and conviction to live each day alert to His return.

COMMENTARY

| LUKE 12:35-48

12:35. A servant of the kingdom is always on call. You have no time for delay. No time to go out to buy oil. No time to get the wick fixed or light the lamps so they will keep on burning. No time to adjust your clothing so you can run to the duty the Master assigns. You have time only to hear “all to service” and set out to complete the task. This is especially true in light of the coming judgment. You must be ready to move when Christ returns. Do not think you can make preparations for His coming then. Do not think you can change your position from worrying about material goods to serving the kingdom then. When Christ comes, be ready to move with Him.

12:36. The Master is away celebrating. Wedding celebrations may last four to seven days. It matters not how long. When He returns, He does not want to have to rouse you from

your bed to open the door. He wants you at the door ready to open and to carry out the tasks He has planned for you.

12:37-38. For those who are ready, what a surprise. No barking of commands. No extra burden of work. Instead, it is a role reversal. The slaves will recline at the table to eat. The Master will put on the servant's clothes, prepare the food, and serve the servants. What a reward for being ready and for storing up heavenly treasures!

12:39-40. What would have happened if the thief had set up an appointment to come rob the house? The owner of the house would have had guards ready to nab him. Christ, the Son of Man, is coming back just as unexpectedly as the thief came to break in and rob the house. So be ready.

12:41. Jesus' parables taught the mysteries of the kingdom to the disciples (8:10). Now Jesus seemed to be addressing the crowds. Peter was confused, and he blatantly expressed his confusion.

12:42-48. Jesus answered a question with a parable. The parable centers on an administrator who is both wise and faithful—one who can make good decisions and who also carries out the task to completion in a trustworthy manner. To such a person the master gives a large responsibility—making sure the household staff has adequate food. Note that Luke moves from slaves to Lord-and-household-staff language. Then he moves (v. 43) immediately back to speak of the slave, the chosen administrator being a slave to the master. If he is faithful, then he will be blessed. That blessing is defined as greater responsibility, not just food allotments but management of the entire estate.

Not all slaves meet the qualifications. Some seize responsibility as opportunity to show personal power and to take advantage of those for whom they have responsibility. They use the added access to the master's goods to indulge their own hungers and vices. Such abuse of other people and self-indulgence do not win the day. The master finally returns and catches the administrator-slave in the act. With a sudden twist, Jesus applied the illustration not to the world of business but to the dedication of discipleship. The person who pretends to be a disciple but is unfaithful in doing so—the one who appeared to hear the word gladly but soon forsook it (see 8:1-15), the one who refuses to take up his cross and follow Jesus without worrying about material needs—this one is cut in two and given an eternal place with the unbelievers.

Some servants, however, have no assignment. They do not know what the master wants of them. They apparently do not even know the rules by which the master runs the house.

These unknowing servants break the rules, but unintentionally. The judicial system would seem to demand severe punishment for him. Jesus lightens the sentence to only a few blows. The reason for the difference in punishments is the principle of accountable stewardship. More is expected of those who have been given much.