



## **Luke 12:35-48**

<sup>35</sup> “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup> like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. <sup>37</sup> It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. <sup>38</sup> It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. <sup>39</sup> But understand 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. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” <sup>41</sup> Peter asked, “Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?” <sup>42</sup> The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? <sup>43</sup> It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. <sup>44</sup> Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. <sup>45</sup> But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. <sup>46</sup> The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.” <sup>47</sup> “The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows.

## Getting Started:

- What does Jesus mean when he says, "be dressed, ready for service" in Luke 12:35, and how does this apply to our daily lives?
- How does Jesus' teaching in Luke 12 challenge our understanding of leadership and influence in the Kingdom of God?
- What role does desperation for God's presence play in staying ready for His return? How can we cultivate this desperation?

## Digging Deeper:

<sup>35</sup> "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup> like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks, they can immediately open the door for him.

Grayson explained that in verse 35, there are two verbs:

- "Stay" Imperative verb. Not optional. A command.
- "Dressed for action" is a perfect passive verb. Perfect means a completed action, and passive means you are being acted upon.
- Literal translation of v35: "Gird up your loins, keep your lamps burning."
  - "Gird up your loins" is ancient imagery that comes from people tucking in the loose ends of their garments by tightening their belts before physical labor.
  - 1 Peter 1:13 NKJV says, "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."
- How can we overcome the mindset of thinking that we have "plenty of time" before Christ's return?
- What does the imagery of "gird up your loins" symbolize?
- Why are the servants instructed to keep their lamps burning? • How does 1 Peter 1:13 relate to the command in Luke 12:35?

<sup>37</sup> It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. <sup>38</sup> It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. <sup>39</sup> But understand 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. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." Grayson used the analogy of the Christmas Movie Home Alone:

- Kevin makes his house look like a party. He's making sure he's ready for the wet bandits and has no idea when they're going to show up.
- THEN when Kevin finds out that Harry and Marv are going to come at 9pm, he gets his house ready for the right time.

- What does the command to "be ready" reveal about the urgency of Christ's return?
- What is the first step in being ready for Christ's return?
- In the analogy of the Home Alone movie, how does Kevin's preparation for both the unknown and known moments reflect the way Jesus wants us to stay spiritually prepared? What can we learn from his actions?

**41 Peter asked, "Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?" 42 The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? 43 It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. 44 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.**

- Why does Jesus use the metaphor of a servant and a master in this passage? What can we learn from the story of the servant who's either ready or unprepared for the master's return?
- How does this relate to our responsibilities as followers of Christ, both individually and collectively as a church?
- What does it mean to be "desperate" for the return of Christ?
- How can you tell whether or not you are truly desperate for God's presence, and what can you do to reignite that desperation?

**<sup>45</sup> But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. <sup>46</sup> The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers. <sup>47</sup> "The servant who knows the master's will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. <sup>48</sup> 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.**

- What does Jesus teach about the consequences of neglecting readiness, as seen in the story of the servant who abuses their position?
- Grayson asked: If you knew that Jesus was coming back exactly one year from now, how would that change your actions in 2025 for...
  - ○ Self
  - ○ Family
    1. You might think "I really only have influence over my wife and kids..."
    2. Never underestimate the importance of your role as a spouse. □ Never underestimate the importance of your role as a parent.
  - ○ Team
  - ○ Organization
  - ○ Community

- How does this concept challenge your perspective on your influence in your family, workplace, and community?
- What does Jesus mean when he says, “from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded?”

### **So What, Now What?**

#### **1. Get ready and stay ready. But how?**

- **Are you desperate for God’s presence?**
- **Give your life to Him.**
- **Ask for his presence in your life.**

#### **2. This word is for ALL of us**

- **Start with self.**
- **Seek and obey God’s will in all of your circles of influence.**
- **Revive Church Circles**
  - **Self**
  - **Family**
  - **Small Group**
  - **Church (Volunteer Team)**
  - **The Bridge**
- In what ways can we manage our own hearts?
- In what ways can we intentionally seek and obey God’s will in the different circles of influence we have (family, work, community, etc.)
- How can you be more intentional in these areas?

Maybe today you need to repent of your lack of desperation and ask that God would make you desperate to see him in your day and day out moments.

