



NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

**Supplemental Texts**

Lev. 5:17; Num. 15:27-31; Due. 25:1-2; Jer. 14:17-19; Matt. 6:19; 20:25-28; 24:36-51; 25:1-13; Mark 13:32-37; Lk. 12:19; 13:32-37; 19:11-27; 21:34-36; 22:24-27; Rom. 1:18-20; 1 Cor. 16:13; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; James 3:1; 4:17; 2 Pet. 3:8-13; Jude 20-25; Rev. 3:3, 19-22; 16:15

**Study Summary**

Jesus continues teaching His disciples, moving from His discussion on greed and worry to talk about the importance of being prepared for His coming in power when He will return to set all things right. He warns them to not let themselves fall into laziness or selfish pursuits, but to be about the work of the Kingdom as they await the return of the King.

**Historical & Theological Background**

**Grid Your Loins:** The literal translation of “Be ready for service” is “Let your loins be girded.” In the time of Jesus “Garments were worn loosely around the waist without a belt in the house; to tie them up with a belt was a sign of readiness for departure on a journey” “or for activity and service.” Jesus is telling His disciples that they must always be prepared to serve, just as a servant with girded loins was more prepared for rigorous work.

**Peter’s Question:** “Peter’s question may be meant to raise the question of the privileges and responsibilities of the apostolate.” Peter’s culture was consumed by matters of social standing and propriety. It could be that Peter was wondering if a leader like himself should always “Be ready to serve” as well. The question “certainly has relevance to the work of the ministry, a topic that would have been important to Luke’s readers. Jesus does not answer directly, but draws attention to the responsibility of all servants. He stresses that the greater the privilege the greater the responsibility.” In the Kingdom of God, those in leadership are called to use their positions of power and influence to serve the least and the lowest just as the King of the Kingdom, Jesus, gave all away to save us.

**An Unexpected Hour:** It is clear throughout Scripture that the time of Christ’s return is hidden (Mark 13:32-37). While there are signs of its approach given to help us keep vigilant (Mark 13:28-31), the date will always be a mystery for the purpose of strengthening and supporting our faith. In this time of waiting, we are challenged and encouraged to put our trust in the Lord as we anticipate the completion of our salvation. The Apostle Peter encourages us that God is not slow in bringing the final restoration of all things, but delays so that more might find Him and be saved (2 Pet. 3:8-9). Our role in this in-between time is not to have all the answers, but to join God in the work of the Kingdom as we await the return of the King.

**Final Judgement:** The final judgement of Christ is good news because it means the destruction of all evil, sin, and death, and the establishment of the New Creation (2 Pet. 3:13). Just as an earthly judge is considered good for securing justice for those offended and bringing punishment upon the offender, God, the ultimate Judge, will secure justice for His creation, which has been wounded and marred by sin and death. We can rest easy both because we can leave the final judgment up to God—knowing that Jesus will make all things right in the end (1 Cor. 4:3-5)—and because our good Judge is also the justifier of sinners like you and me. For those of us who have put our faith in Jesus, He has already taken our judgment upon Himself on the cross.

DISCUSSION PRIMER

Take some time this week to read Luke 12:35-48 slowly and prayerfully. Ask yourself these questions: How am I serving Jesus and His Kingdom? How am I treating my brothers and sisters in Christ? Am I ready for Jesus’ return?

TEXTUAL INVESTIGATION

LUKE 12:35-48

**Big Idea: Living for the Kingdom While Awaiting the King**  
**Fallen Condition Focus: Laziness, Neglect, and Unfaithfulness**

- What does it mean to “Be ready for service” (35)? (See Lk 22:24-27 & HTB)
- Why is it important that the servants watch for their master to return (36-37)? (See Rev. 3:19-22)
- How does the unexpected arrival of the master affect the servants and their task (38-40)? (See Rev. 3:3 and HTB)
- Why does Peter ask his questions (41)? (See HTB)
- What are the qualities of the manager in the first scenario? His reward (42-43)?
- What are the qualities of the manager/servant in the second scenario? What is his reward (45-46)? How is this servant like the foolish rich man of Jesus’ previous parable? (See Lk 12:18-21)
- What is the meaning of Jesus’ words in 47-48? (See Jas. 3:1; 4:17 & Rom. 1:18-20)
- **Gospel Connection:** Read Lk 12:37 and Matt 20:27-28. How is Jesus the greatest servant of all?

TEXTUAL INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- What kinds of worries and temptations are thrown our way as we wait for the King? How do we keep alert? (See Lk 21:34-36)
- What does it look like for us to live as a people anticipating the return of Jesus both individually and as a community? (See Jude 20-23)
- Why does God keep the time of Christ’s return hidden from us? (See HTB)
- Why is it so difficult to use positions of power or influence to serve others? Do you struggle with this? Have you ever experienced abuse from someone in power?
- How might God be calling you to use your spheres of influence for the Kingdom?
- In what ways is God calling you into deeper faith and obedience through this text?
- Why are Jesus’ words about judgement so difficult to hear? How are they good news? (See HTB)

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read *Luke 12:35-48* and explore together what the passage reveals about:

- |                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ?    |
| 2) The fallen human condition?        | 5) Our obedience to Christ?   |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ?        | 6) Our relationship to others |

TEXTUAL APPLICATION: “So, what now?”

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

- a command to obey?
- a beauty to behold?
- a mission to fulfill?
- a promise to claim?
- a truth to believe?
- an example to follow?
- a sin to repent of?
- a service to render?
- a person to tell?

[Works referenced and cited: Howard Marshall, *The Gospel of Luke: A Commentary on the Greek Text*; Leon Morris, *Luke: An Introduction and Commentary*; Horst Robert Balz and Gerhard Schneider, *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament NIV*; *Biblical Theology Study Bible*, GE D.A. Carson; Timothy Keller, *Kings Cross*; [BibleGateway.com](http://BibleGateway.com)]