

Luke 12: 35-48 (New International Version, ©2011)

³⁵ “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

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. ⁴⁵ 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. ⁴⁶ 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.

⁴⁷ “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. ⁴⁸ 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.

OASIS: Radical Stewardship, Luke 12:22-34 & 47-48

Preface: Welcome to our 3rd Bible study in our sermon series “Answering the Radical Call of Christ.” Each study explores aspects of Jesus’ call to radical living (“radical” is derived from “root”). These challenges are the keys to personal discipleship and to “living wide,” whether it be via influencing friends, launching campuses, or building strategic partnerships. The sermons will be complemented by three LIFE Community studies, which use one of the same biblical texts and will help your LC go deeper in personal understanding and application.

Possible starter question: Think of what you have been given (not what you have made or achieved or earned). What are some of the ways God has blessed you? Or what you have been given for which you are particularly grateful?

Transitional comment: Today’s passage contains several parables that focus upon our attitudes to the future. This is not an easy section. We will have to “work at it” in order to go for wise application. But we can do it. Ready, set, go! Let’s go for it.

(Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead your study, if you haven’t already prayed.)

Let’s listen as our passage is read: Who wants to read vv. 35-40? Who willing to read v. 41 to the end?

Personal time to re-read: Take several minutes (2-3) to read this again on your own. What words and ideas are repeated or similar? Look for the kind of attitudes that Jesus is encouraging—and challenging?

Overview together: What repeated words and ideas did you observe? What words or phrases dealt with people’s attitudes? (Let’s just list them—not discuss them at this point.)

First Section (vv. 35-40):

O What are some of the main features of the parable that begin in v. 36?

What is the role and actions of the master?

In what ways will the master respond to the ready servants? (servant-leadership on display!)

What about the role and actions of the servants?

O Verse 39 is almost another small parable. What does it contribute?

(n.b. Given the recent flap about the “end times” a couple of weeks ago, we would be wise to learn what Jesus taught in Mt. 24:36, which clarifies a lot about such contraversies or publicity stunts. Read this verse. How does it inform us?)

I What is Jesus expecting in his disciples—both in attitudes and action in the opening v. 35 and concluding v. 40, as he clarifies his primary points in the parables?

A How can we be like the ready servants in our daily living? Let’s see how practical we can be.

Second Section (vv. 41-48):

O Remember that Jesus welcomes good questions. What is Peter wanting to understand?

O In this next parable (vv. 42-44), what do you learn about the manager?

- O What actions has the master taken?
- O In vv. 45-46, Jesus makes up a different scenario. What differences are there in the manager's attitude and behavior?
- O What is the master's response? Why?
 - I Since we know with confidence that Jesus wasn't recommending butchery, what point do you think he was trying to make?
- O In vv. 47-48a, what insight is Jesus explaining?
 - I Why is it worse to know what is expected and not do it, they not know and do it? What point was Jesus making to his disciples?
- O What insight is Jesus teaching to the disciples in vv. 48b-49?
 - I Since this insight is unlikely to be limited to Jesus apostles, to whom else would you think it applies?
 - I In what ways might we view this approach as radical?
 - A What are some of the ways that God has given much to us individually or as a LIFE Community?
 - A What sort of response do you think Jesus demands or asks of us given all He has given?

Prayer together: Pray for one another that we might:

- ❖ develop the best attitudes and perspectives, and
- ❖ live practically as radically wise and faithful managers of the Kingdom of God.

Text notes (you can access biblical texts via www.Biblegateway.com)

- a. BIG idea: As people who have been given much, what should be our attitudes and expectations?
- b. Key verse: Luke 12:48b "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded..."
- c. KEY: O = Observation; I = Interpretation; A = Application (or C = Challenge)

Advice to study leaders:

- d. Complement OIA questions with "process questions" (what else? what more? what do others think?).
- e. Determine the core questions you'll ask (know which ones to skip if pressed for time).
- f. Always reword questions in words that are comfortable for you (and, if the question doesn't make sense to you, then discard it.) You want to "own" each question.
- g. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don't rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- h. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
- i. Application: Pace the study to conclude with "difference making" application.
- j. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into "teaching," rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.
- k. I recommend the 1 vol. New Bible Commentary, Revised (21st Century ed, IVP). Well worth \$35.