



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

A Prepared Story!

Luke 12:35-59

Message #41 of 50 – S821

Sermon given on December 9, 2018



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

A Prepared Story!

Luke 12:35-59

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 12**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- As a young man I was in the Navy on a submarine
- We regularly practiced various activities – called them drills
- These were either emergency drills or combat drills
- The idea was that we were to practice these things until they became natural to us
- The goal was to prepare us to respond to the real thing without hesitation and without panic so that we could be as effective as possible
- There was always a possibility of an emergency happening or of an enemy threat, so we had to be as prepared as possible
- Jesus is going to tell His disciples to be prepared – though not for an emergency or for an enemy threat
- Going to tell them to prepare for something that every Christian should be looking forward to
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **A Prepared Story!**
- Up to this point in Luke 12 Jesus has warned His disciples about hypocrisy, covetousness, and worry
- God is writing a story in your life of Christ – His power, grace, mercy, love, and salvation
- How you choose to live your life is the pen that God is using
- We study the Bible, so we can learn how to let God write a good story
- There are things we have to watch out for, and there are things we need to look for in our lives that lead to a good story in our lives
- Jesus instructs us to be prepared for something special
- **Luke 12:35-38**

- Turn to **John 14**
- In a couple of weeks, we will celebrate the birth of Christ
- God came down to mankind and took on human flesh and walked among us
- He did that because mankind has a problem with God
- All of humanity has chosen to live as they wanted to, and not as God created to live – God calls that sin – missing the mark
- And because humanity was and is incapable of saving themselves from that, Jesus came to make a way for us to be right with God
- Jesus came to pay the price the sins of humanity demanded by dying on the cross
- While Jesus was here, he told His disciples what was coming in the future
- **John 14:1-3**
- Jesus was going to leave – died, buried, resurrected, ascended
- But He was coming back
- Turn back to **Luke 12**
- We refer to that as the Second Coming of Jesus Christ – also known as the Second Advent
- Second Coming is mentioned 318 times in the 260 chapters of the NT
- Here in our text Jesus is telling them to be prepared for His Return
- In verse 35, two idioms are used
- First, ‘Let your waist be girded’ – because the typical garment of the day was like a full-length robe, it could get in the way of working or fighting
- To gird up your waist is to tuck the ends of the robe into a belt around the waist
- Telling them to be prepared to work – to serve the master
- Eliminate anything that might hinder your ability to serve the master
- The other idiom – ‘lamps burning’ – oil lamps – make sure you have oil and the wick is trimmed so you can see clearly when the master returns
- Faithful servants would be prepared and watching for the master’s return
- In verse 38 – second or third watch = middle of the night

- While the rest of the world sleeps, be ready and watching for the master
- Look at verse 37 – promise to the faithful servants
- The master will serve the servants – very unusual
- We have a picture of that in John 17 when Jesus washed the feet of the disciples
- I serve God because I love Him and because I am thankful to Him for saving me and always being with me
- But sometimes serving Him gets hard – it is nice to remind myself of verses like this – there are rewards for faithful service
- Then Jesus reminds us that we must always be prepared
- **Luke 12:39-40**
- Jesus is coming back – probably soon – but no one knows when
- This is the doctrine of the Imminent Return of Christ
- No prophecies need to be fulfilled before His Return – could be at any moment
- The faithful servants keep themselves prepared for His Return
- Peter asks for clarification and Jesus responds with another parable
- **Luke 12:41-44**
- In God’s kingdom, a servant is a steward
- A steward was someone who was given responsibility by the master to take care of some portion or all of the master’s household
- Joseph in the OT was made steward over Potiphar’s household
- They act on behalf of the master to ensure his household flourishes, whether he is present or absent
- Faithful stewards were given more responsibility – especially if they were faithful while the master was away
- As modern Christians, we are all called to be stewards of Christ’s household – the church
- Faithful servants/stewards of God seek to help the Christ’s church to flourish and grow
- Jesus also gives a warning about being unfaithful
- **Luke 12:45-48**
- Jesus said He was coming back again – that was almost 2,000 years ago

- For 2,000 years Christians have been waiting for Christ to back at any moment
- Don't think that just because it has been a long time that He couldn't come back right now – always be ready
- Notice the end of verse 48
- We have been given so much, more than any generation before us
- We have the whole Bible in any translation and on any device we want
- We have millions of sermons at our fingertips and many thousands of books about the Bible
- We have the ability to share the gospel with the whole world through the internet
- We should feel humbled by all that God has entrusted to us, but we should also be warned that God expects us to be faithful stewards of all He has entrusted to us
- Then Jesus warns that being a faithful servant/steward will not always be easy
- **Luke 12:49-53**
- As Christians, we are entrusted with the Good News, the gospel of Jesus Christ – the hope of heaven offered to all of humanity
- Everyone needs to hear the gospel
- The gospel confronts people with a choice
- They must choose – live for God or live for themselves
- That choice will cause division – within families, communities, countries, the whole world
- In verse 50 – the baptism = baptism/immersion into death on the cross
- 'till it is accomplished' **John 15:30** - "It is finished!"
- This whole time Jesus has been speaking to the disciples, but they are surrounded by thousands of people – He addresses them
- **Luke 12:54-56**
- There is a spiritual storm of judgment coming, and the signs of that coming firestorm are everywhere – if you are looking for them
- The Future Today Prophecy Meetings – are to help you get prepared
- Tonight at 6 at the church office

- He is saying to the multitudes, the signs of God's coming judgment are clear, but you are not prepared to meet it
- **Luke 12:57-59**
- You don't realize the danger you are facing
- You are racing toward judgment, and you need to settle with your adversary before you are standing before the judge – too late
- Without Christ, God is our adversary **Romans 8:7-8**
Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- Jesus came so that we don't have to face judgment **John 5:24**
Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.
- Jesus is coming! Are you ready?
- Before we share Communion – three things to stay ready
- First – **Live a holy life!**
- Gird up your waist = get rid of things that hinder your ability to serve the Master Jesus
- Lamps burning = add to your life things that help you see what God wants you to do and be in this dark world
- Second – **Serve with joy!**
- God saved you and put you into His family and then entrusted you with spiritual gifts – find a way to use them
- Lot's of places to serve within the church or within the community
- Share about **Invite Cards**
- Third – **Keep watching for Him!**
- Jesus could return at any moment – keep watching for Him
- The signs of His imminent return are numerous
- Live every day as if He could come back at any moment
- Live every day as if this is your last day on this earth
- God is writing the story of Jesus in our lives
- I don't know about you, but I want to be living that good story when Jesus gets here
- **Pray!**