**Luke: Heaven’s Savior with a Human Touch**

**Be Ready**

**Luke 12:35-59**

**December 4, 2016**

Get ready for the **UNEXPECTED**!

**Luke 12:35–59 — 35** *“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,*  ***36*** *and be like men who are waiting 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 also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

…**Luke 12:22 — 22** *And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on.*

1. Live now for **ETERNITY**. Luke 12:35-40

What keeps us from staying dressed for action and our lamps burning?

**Fatigue** (we’re not in a spring, our lives are a marathon and it is exhausting);

**Discouragement** (we get discouraged by circumstances, by others, even by our own decisions and actions);

**Distractions** (this world system that stand in opposition and rebellion to God and the Devil who wants to destroy the work of God are experts at throwing distractions at us that keep us from being prepared for the return of Jesus).

What would it look like for us to be ready for the return of Jesus?

Jesus describes it as:

 **Active Service—Continual Preparation—Joyous Anticipation.**

**Luke 1:78–79 — 78** *because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high*  ***79*** *to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”*)

**v.36** **Revelation 3:20 — 20** *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.* Labor with an eye towards heaven. Live now for eternity.

**John 13:5 — 5** *Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

***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.*

1. Live now based on what has been **ENTRUSTED** to you. Luke 12:41-48

***49*** *“I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled!*  ***50*** *I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!*  ***51*** *Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.*  ***52*** *For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three.*  ***53*** *They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”*  ***54*** *He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming.’ And so it happens.*  ***55*** *And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens.*  ***56*** *You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?*  ***57*** *“And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?*  ***58*** *As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison.*  ***59*** *I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.”*

1. Live now for the One who **ENDURED** God’s wrath for you. Luke 12:49-59

Let’s talk about being ready…

1. What one word could you use to describe what Jesus is talking about in v.35?
2. What is the blessing the servants receive from their master in v.37?
3. What quality does it take to be ready to receive someone in the middle of the night (v.38)?
4. What does it mean to not be caught unprepared for the return of Jesus (v.39-40)?
5. What was Jesus’ answer to Peter’s question about who He was telling this story for (v.42ff)?
6. What do you need to be doing when Jesus returns in order for you to be blessed (v.42-43)?
7. How does the servant who doesn’t think his master is returning treat his fellow servants (v.45)?
8. What’s the relationship between what you know about the return of Jesus and the consequences you will experience (v.48)?
9. What did Jesus say He came to bring to the earth (v.49, 51)?
10. Through technological advancements, we have become adept at predicting weather patterns. Why can’t we interpret the present time (v.56)?
11. What point was Jesus making by telling the story about going with your accuser to the judge (v.58-59)?
12. Would you consider yourself ready for the return of Jesus? Why or why not?
13. What incentives do you have for getting ready for the return of Jesus?