

# *The Gospel of Luke*

## *Lesson 27: Luke 12:35-59*

As the evening fades and the darkness sets in, many take their ease, blow out their lamps, and close their eyes. Wearied from the long wait, they drift to sleep, neglecting their duty to gird their waists and keep their lamps burning until their Master's return (Luke 12:35). Upon His departure, He said, "[I am] coming at an hour that you do not expect" (v.40). To their shame, they will not receive Him when He knocks nor will they see the One they once waited for.

First John 2:28 says, "And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming" (NKJV). "Stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28, Berean Study Bible).

*Read Luke 12:35-48.*

1. In what manner are we to wait for Christ's return? (vv.35-37)
2. What has resulted in the hearts of those who've "loosened their belts" and blown out their lamps?
3. What reward will those found watching receive from their master? (v.37)
4. Describe the second and third watch of the night both literally and figuratively. How does the hour make watching more difficult? (Consider Matthew 24:4-14 and 2 Timothy 3:1-9.)

5. The Messiah's return is compared to the coming of a thief (1 Thessalonians 5:2, 2 Peter 3:10, and Revelation 3:3, 16:15). Read also Matthew 24:27, 36-39, 42, 25:6-10.

Why do you believe He has chosen to return in this manner?

List the positive and negative results of knowing the day and hour of His return.

6. Describe the steward's character. With what has he been entrusted? (v.42) How is his faithfulness and fidelity measured? Whom does he represent?
7. What results when a steward lives without expectation of his master's return? (v.45)
8. Similarly, what attitudes can delay produce in an individual's life? What do our actions reveal about our thoughts toward our Master?
9. In verse 46 it states that the steward was *not looking* and *not aware*. This indicates that the steward's senses had grown dull. How does this occur in an individual who at one time looked continually for his master? Think on Luke 8:14, 21:34-35.

Read Ecclesiastes 9:12 and 1 Thessalonians 5:3.

10. For what are men accountable? (vv.47-48)
11. In what ways does the punishment match the offence? Consider Matthew 16:27, Mark 8:38, 1 Corinthians 4:5, also Matthew 25:29-30.
12. The return of Christ is one of the most frequently discussed doctrines in the New Testament. One in every twenty-five verses refers to this event (Walvoord). Why do you believe so much of God's Word is devoted to this subject? How does anticipating His return orient one's life?
13. It has been said that "God has granted the kingdom to those willing to orient their hearts and lives around it". Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

*Read Luke 12:49-53.*

14. Ultimately, why does Christ bring division? Read John 1:1-5, 3:19-10, and Hebrews 4:12-13.
15. Why is neutrality regarding Christ impossible? (See Joshua 24:19, Luke 11:23, 16:13, etc.)

16. How does separation and opposition from others make it increasingly difficult to wait and watch for Christ?

*Continue reading in Luke 12, verses 54-56.*

17. What is required to discern the weather? In order to discern Christ's return, what is required of the believer?

18. How will those who neglect this discipline be found by their Master? (Reread verses 39-40.)

*Read Luke 12:57-59.*

19. In Jesus' illustration one is encouraged to reconcile with his adversary before he appears for judgment. In verse 58, the adversary who has a claim to make is Christ, to Whom man is a debtor. Why can't the debtor appear before the magistrate "insisting upon his own justification"? (Henry)

20. In light of the times, why mustn't one delay to make peace with Christ? (vv.58-59)

## Appendix

In our present time, there are many reasons to believe that Jesus is coming soon, adding to our sense of urgency as we hope to discern this time.

- The stage is set for a rebuilt temple, necessary to fulfill the prophecies of the abomination of desolation (Matthew 24:15, Mark 13:14, 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4). Since 1948 Israel is a nation again, and hopes of a rebuilt temple continue to rise among a minority of Jews.
- The stage is set for the sort of world-dominating confederation of nations, heir to the Roman Empire to arise (Daniel 2:36–45, Revelation 13:1–8, Revelation 17:10–14). It will likely be connected to the modern European Community, arising out of the goals of their leaders and the chaos of the times.
- The stage is set for a political and economic world leader to arise, the sort of single political leader who will lead this world-dominating confederation of nations (2 Thessalonians 2:3–12, Revelation 13:4–7).
- The stage is set for the kind of false religion the Bible says will characterize the very last days (2 Thessalonians 2:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:9–12, Revelation 13:11–15, Revelation 17:1–6).
- The stage is set for the kind of economic system predicted for the very last days (Revelation 13:15–17). The technology is available, and the need is present. (David Guzik)