

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – October 8, 2023

Theme: The Urgency of the Last Day Topic: Be Ready for His Coming

Main Texts: Luke 12:35-48

Key verse: Luke 12:40 – “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: Earlier in Luke chapter 12 Jesus had been teaching about our attitude to material things like greed, and the need to focus on the Kingdom of God rather than worrying about our needs. Today’s study shifts gears to address our readiness for Christ’s return. Jesus taught that we should not be anxious about tomorrow, not that we should ignore tomorrow! On the contrary, our understanding of what will happen in the future should determine how we live today. As followers of Jesus Christ, we should never forget that He is coming soon and that we will stand to give an account of how we used the time, money, and abilities He gave us. After telling His disciples to seek first His kingdom, Jesus goes on to exhort them to be ready for His return.

1. (a) Based on Luke 12:35-40 What does being ready entail and why must those who serve Jesus be ready at any hour? (See 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4). (b) The Master has given us all assignments for while He’s gone – jobs, resources, abilities, money, relationships, etc. How can we use them wisely before He returns? (See 1 John 3:17-18; 1 Timothy 6:18; Romans 12:6-8; Colossians 3:23). (c) What should our attitude be regarding Christ’s return? How should we answer scoffers who question Christ’s return? (See 2 Peter 3:3-4,9-10).

In this parable, a master has gone to a wedding banquet and his servants are waiting up for him. This is similar to how we as servants of God, ought to be eagerly awaiting the return of our Master, Jesus Christ. From the passage, we see three characteristics of waiting: 1) **Preparation** — “be dressed”; 2) **Readiness** — “keep your lamps burning”; and 3) **Expectation** — “like servants waiting for their master.” Our preparation requires that we be clothed in a garment of righteousness and live in the light of the Word. Our readiness occurs as we are daily being formed and fashioned into the very image of Jesus. And our expectation is characterized by being discerning and living in a state of constant anticipation of the Master’s return, so that when He arrives, we immediately welcome Him in. It is the process of discipleship, i.e. becoming like Jesus by denying ourselves daily, taking up our cross and following Him, that effectively prepares us for His return (Luke 9:23, 26).

2. (a) In Luke 12:41-43, Christ was addressing His disciples, not the crowd. What is the significance of this and how does discipleship prepare one for Christ’s return? (See Ephesians 4:11-13, Romans 8:29). (b) How can we pursue Christlikeness in our daily walk with God? (Philippians 2:5; 3:8-9; Galatians 5:22-23). (c) Read Luke 12: 46-48. What do these verses say about God’s justice? How should that motivate us to prepare for His coming? (See also Luke 12:32; 2 Timothy 2:12; John 3:36).

In answering Peter’s question, Jesus highlights four categories of servants, each of whom will receive a different reward or punishment. There is only one good category; the other three face punishment to varying degrees. No matter the severity we should aim to avoid being in a category for punishment! Genuine believers are faithful and wise servants who rightly manage the spiritual riches God has entrusted to them. They live in light of the Gospel and serve the Lord by serving others as Christ directs. They will receive the Master’s reward and be honored. The other three groups include those who 1) ignored the Master’s impending return and abused the people left in their charge; 2) knew the Master’s will, but they did not get ready or act in accordance with His will; and 3) did not know the Master’s will. The first will receive the most severe punishment in hell while the other two will also be punished but to a lesser extent.

3. (a) From Luke 12: 37-38 What reward is waiting for the servants that are ready for the Master’s return? See also Matthew 25:10; Matthew 24:46-47. (b) If you’re expecting the King of kings, how should your life look? Would you have been comfortable if He had come back during your activities this past week? (See 1 Corinthians 4:2) (c) How can the call to watchfulness in light of Christ’s return shape our daily lives and priorities? And in what ways can you cultivate a spirit of readiness and watchfulness in your life?

Prayer: Our dear heavenly Father, we thank You for Your Word. Please help us to be ready for Your return as faithful and wise servants. Amen