

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #47

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 12:35-48

Sermon Date: Aug 13, 2006

Are you ready?

For what? For a sudden financial need? For an unexpected storm? For a surprise quiz? For a no-notice visit from the leadership at your workplace? Is your will up-to-date? Do you have enough life insurance? Is your hard drive backed up?

Life is really busy. We seem to have less time than we once did to prepare for things that might not happen. Maybe the disciples felt this way too, as they traveled around with Jesus and experienced so many wondrous things.

But he took time to exhort them to “be dressed ready for service, and keep your lamps burning.” What was he asking them to get ready for? His return. Yet he hadn’t left yet. Hmmm. Looks like we have some thinking and studying to do to understand what God is saying to us.

As you approach this study, pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you, and that God’s Word will transform you – so you will truly be dressed ready for service, with your lamps burning.

This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>³⁵ "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ like men 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. I tell you the truth, 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 second or third watch of the night. 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."</p> <p>⁴¹ Peter asked, "Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?"</p> <p>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 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions."</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>⁴⁵ But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants 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.</p> <p>⁴⁷ "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his 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."</p>	

2. What would the following have meant to Jesus' hearers? (Try researching these on your own. Ask others for help if you need it.)
 - a. Being dressed ready for service (12:35)
 - b. Keep your lamps burning (12:35)
 - c. The second or third watch of the night (12:38)

3. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

4. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Dig Deeper:

5. Luke 12:35 literally says “gird your loins,” which refers to the way men would commonly tie their flowing garments around their waist using a belt when they were getting ready for work.

a. What does being “dressed ready for service” literally look like for you? In other words, how do you dress for work?
(... professionally? ... around your home? ... as a volunteer?)

b. What does being dressed ready for service metaphorically look like for you? What does it look like when you are really ready ... to serve others? ... to serve Christ?

6. Did you know that Jesus is coming back? Explore the following passages to see what God’s Word says about Jesus’ return. Before you start, note the questions that follow so you can look for answers.

Matt 24

Mark 13

Luke 17:20-37

John 14:3

Acts 1:11

Col 3:4

1 Thess 4:16

1 Thess 5:1-8

2 Tim 4:1-2

Heb 9:27-28

James 5:8

2 Peter 3:8-14

1 John 3:2-3

Rev 1:7

Rev 3:11

Rev 3:19-20

Rev 16:15

Rev 22:20

a. When is Jesus coming back?

b. Why is Jesus coming back?

c. How are we to live, in light of knowing that Jesus is coming back?

7. Do you live as if Jesus is coming back? Step out of your shoes for a moment and try to reflect objectively on your life – your actions, your thoughts, your priorities, etc.

a. Which of your actions/thoughts/priorities seem based on the assumption that Jesus probably will not be back for a long while?

b. Which of your actions/thoughts/priorities seem based on the assumption that Jesus possibly is coming back very soon?

c. How do you feel about your answers to (a) and (b)? What would you like to do differently in the future?

8. What will you do in the days and weeks ahead to be more ready ...
... to hear God's voice, ... to obey His commands, ... to use the gifts
and resources He has given you to help advance His kingdom,
... to truly anticipate Christ's return?