

OPERATIONAL READINESS

Luke 12:35-48

Jesus IS returning and will judge, reward and punish the people in His household for how they have been faithful to Him.

- The faithful follower of Jesus is always **alert**, ready for **service** and continuously walking in the **light**. (vv. 35-37a)
- Because of His generous **grace**, the Lord rewards His **faithful** servants. (vv. 37-38a)
- Jesus is **returning** unexpectedly and we will not know the day nor the hour. (vv. 38b-40)
- All people associated with the kingdom of God will be judged by their **faithfulness**, as evidenced by their actions and **level** of understanding. (vv. 41-48)

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. What does it practically look like to “stay dressed for action” as a Christian? How can we avoid becoming spiritually lazy in our daily lives? Luke 12:35-36; 1 Pet. 1:13; Eph. 6:13-14,18; 1 Thess. 5:6
2. Jesus tells us to keep our lamps burning. How does God’s Word serve as our “light” in a dark world? What daily rhythms help you keep that lamp burning? How do we reflect God’s light in a dark world? Ps. 119:105; Matt. 5:14-16
3. How does it change your view of Jesus to know that He delights to serve His people—even at His return? How does that truth motivate you to serve others now? Luke 12:32,37; John 13:2-11; 1 John 3:16; Matt. 20:28
4. When doubt about Jesus’ return arises, or people scoff at the idea of His return, how do you respond? What gives us reassurance of His return? Dan. 7:13-14; Luke 12:39-40; Matt. 24:42-44; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:1-10
5. Knowing that all will be judged by their level of understanding as evidenced by their deeds, how do we call each other to repentance and remain grounded in unity in the church? Luke 12:41-48; James 4:17; Rom. 1:18-20; Heb. 10:36; Gal. 6:9-10; Eph. 4:1-6. John 17:11
6. What has God entrusted to you (time, gifts, relationships, resources), and what does faithfulness look like with those things? How does accountability to Christ change your perspective? Luke 12:48b, 19:16-19; 1 Cor. 4:1-2



“I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now.... Come further up, come further in!” — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle