

Sunday, October 30, 2016

"Faithful & Ready"

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Key Passages: Luke 12:35-48

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Now would also be a great time to allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Jesus concludes telling his disciples about the rich fool and seeking first the Kingdom by telling them "you need to stay ready" v35
- He is essentially telling them, "Roll up your sleeves and be dressed for action, now AND in the future."
- We need to be ready for when the master returns. (v36)
- Jesus establishes that the Kingdom of God is about servanthood ("the master will serve his servants" v37).
- Jesus will return when we don't expect (we would wait until the last minute if we knew).
- So we have to be ready **always**.
- What it means to be ready:
 - Be Faithful
 - Faithfulness requires action.
 - Doing what God calls us to even if we don't like it or it doesn't "make sense."
 - Be Wise
 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
 - Sensing God's call in us and the people that he has entrusted to us
 - Being able to see how our decisions affect us and God's kingdom
 - "So doing"
 - We are faithful STEWARDS
 - The manager of the house can make all decisions, but owns NONE OF IT
 - All God has given us is "in play" for his Kingdom
- Luke 12 is all about proper stewardship of what God has given us.**
- God has entrusted things for us to manage wisely and faithfully
 - Influence - your relationships
 - Time - How are you using it?
 - Gifts & Talents
 - God has made you to do something
 - Are we using them to advance our kingdom OR God's Kingdom?
 - Money & Possessions
 - When we don't understand stewardship we become hoarders (see Rich Fool).
 - We can ask the questions "God are you pleased with how I manage my money and possessions?"
- We have been entrusted by our master to use what he has given wisely and faithfully
- "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand more." v48

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What has God been showing you the last couple weeks about what it means to seek first His Kingdom?
2. How would you say you are doing being "dressed for action"?
3. When was a time you can remember that you were faithful? When was a time you were not?
4. What does the fear of the Lord mean to you? How is it the beginning of wisdom?
5. How has seeing yourself as a steward of what God has given shaped your life and walk with Him? How could viewing yourself as a steward for God change the way you order or prioritize your life moving forward?
6. How do you think you are doing managing the things God has entrusted to you? Relationships, time, gifts and talents, money & possessions?
7. How is God calling you to be a more wise and faithful steward for Him and his kingdom?