

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"READY AND WAITING"

For individual study or group discussion

Throughout Luke 12, we see Jesus focusing on a common theme: living in the light of eternity. Previously in Luke 12:1-34, Jesus tells his disciples to keep seeking God's Kingdom, focusing not on their temporal needs, such as food, drink, and clothing, but using their resources for the benefit of others. In today's passage, his message cautions his disciples to keep the end in view with an eager expectancy of the master's return. Jesus' instruction in verses 35-48 comes in the form of parables that emphasize how we should be **ready and waiting for the Lord's certain return at an uncertain hour, which necessitates watchful readiness (vv. 35-40) and faithful stewardship (vv. 41-48).**

Watchful Readiness (vv. 35-40)

Jesus instructs his hearers by emphasizing two actions: "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning" (v. 35). His warning necessitates a watchful readiness, and the admonition is designed to move the disciples to live in such a way as to expect the unexpected (v. 40).

- How are the words "watching" and "waiting" used throughout this passage?
- What is it like to wait for someone without knowing when they are coming? According to Isaiah 25, what is in store for those who wait for God?
- Re-read Luke 12:37. Discuss the unusual generosity of the master who returns home to find faithful servants. Read Psalm 37:34 and Isaiah 40:31. What happens to those who "wait upon the LORD"?

Faithful Stewardship (vv. 41-48)

In verse 41, Peter asks the question, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?" RTS Chancellor Ligon Duncan compares Peter's question to a student raising his hand during a classroom lecture and asking the teacher, "Excuse me, is this going to be on the test?" *"Peter is basically asking Jesus 'Are you saying this for us, are you saying this for the benefit of your inner circle of disciples, or are you saying this for all?'"*¹ Rather than reprove Peter for being slow to understand, Jesus responds to Peter's question with a question of his own: "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time" (v. 42)? And then proceeds to answer his own question with another parable about faithful stewardship.

- Jesus describes faithful stewardship as providing food for "his household" (v. 42). Essentially Jesus is answering Peter's question by charging the inner circle of his disciples to "feed my sheep." After the resurrection, Jesus and Peter had another conversation about feeding sheep (John 21:15-19) as he prepared breakfast on the seashore for his disciples. Discuss all the parallels of Jesus' words in Luke 12 to his actions in John 21.
- How do you spend your time, money, resources, and energy? As you assess your life, what does it tell you about your readiness for Christ's return and your loyalty to him?
- As a small group, identify the needs of others in your church or community and discuss opportunities where you can serve together.

DATE: September 3, 2023

SPEAKER: Wil/Chad

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 12:35-48

Family Dinner Table

Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog

As we consider Jesus' message of watchful readiness, we can again turn to one of God's creatures for an object lesson on "watching and waiting."

Have you heard the story of Hachiko, a loyal Akita Inu dog who waited over nine years at a train station for the return of his owner? Hachiko's story, which has been made into a children's story and movie, begins in the early 1920s. Adopted by a man named Hidesaburo Ueno, a professor at the University of Tokyo, Hachiko would accompany his master on his daily commute to the Shibuya train station, where Ueno would pet Hachiko good-bye before boarding the train to work. Each day Hachiko would spend the day at the train station waiting for the professor's return from university. Then one day, Ueno didn't return from work. The professor had suffered a stroke and died. But the loyal dog still watched and waited for his master's return, day after day for over nine years. The local shopkeepers and station workers who recognized Hachiko, kept an eye on him—feeding and taking care of "the faithful dog" as he became known, until his death in 1935.² You can learn more about Hachiko in the LMPC library. Check out the DVD entitled *"Hachi: A Dog's Tale."*

- Read Psalm 130:5-8. Based on our study of Luke 12, what have you learned about the importance of "watchful readiness?"

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Eowyn and David Stoddard,
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¹Duncan, Ligon. (2020, July 29). Media Library • First Presbyterian Church. First Presbyterian Church. <https://fpcjackson.org/resource-library/sermons/be-ready/>

²2021, February 4. *Hachiko Story: Hachi Waited for Owner for 9 Years*. Cesar's Way. <https://www.cesarsway.com/hachiko-story-hachi/>