



## WEEKLY STUDY

### The *Be Ready* Mindset - Week Two

We are tracking the mindset of Jesus through Luke 12-14. He was moving towards Jerusalem and getting his disciples ready for the days ahead. This week we are spending time with Jesus' urgent call for his disciples to remain alert and ready for his return. God is on the move, are we paying attention? Are we ready to respond? May you find hope in the promised return of Jesus and the Kingdom of God he ushers in.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below.. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

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## DAILY STUDY

### MONDAY: LUKE 12.35-40 (ESV)

*“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,<sup>36</sup> and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.<sup>37</sup> Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.<sup>38</sup> If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!<sup>39</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into.<sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

- You know what it's like to wait for someone to come to your house. You are expecting them, but you don't quite know when they will arrive. Do you put the food out yet? Keep it in the oven? Sweep the floor again? There is a certain excitement and uneasiness that both take hold. As followers of Jesus, we have been in a long season of waiting for his return. How can we stay ready after such a long time of waiting?

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- **Prayer Prompt: The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly.” (Isaiah 60.22)**
  - *God, I can be impatient. Forgive me when I doubt your timing. You are the right-on-time God! Amen.*

### **TUESDAY: LUKE 12.35-40 (ESV)**

- There is a sense in this passage that the wait could be a long one. The posture of our waiting predicts much about our readiness. If you decide to lie down while waiting, you are likely to doze off. The language behind “stay dressed” is most likely rooted in the phrase, “gird up your loins”. This means to tuck in your robe so that it won’t prevent you from running at any moment. To have your robe tucked in during a long season of waiting might begin to look silly. Although the images of laying down and staying dressed are metaphors for our way of waiting, how do they relate to your state of readiness for God to move?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. (1 Peter 1.13)**
- *Lord, I thank you for your grace and provision while I wait for your Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.*

### **WEDNESDAY: LUKE 12.12.35-40 (ESV)**

- “Keep your lamps burning” is a common command in the Bible. In a world prior to electric grids and always-on house lights, the hours of darkness were long. It was customary for people to take turns keeping watch at night so that others could sleep. In a very real way, we keep watch for one another as we wait for Jesus’ return. Who is keeping watch with you and for you? For whom do you hold the light in the darkness?
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- **Prayer Prompt: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1.5)**
  - *God, you are like the sun and I am like the moon. I reflect your glory into the darkness of this world. Give me strength as I keep watch. Amen.*

#### **THURSDAY: LUKE 12.35-40 (ESV)**

- In verse 37, Jesus says that the master will dress as a servant and serve his servants! What a striking reversal of roles. That kind of promise would be motivation to stay awake and ready for the master's return. Did the disciples recall this story when Jesus knelt to wash their feet before their passover meal? ([John 13.1-7](#)) Is it easy or difficult for you to imagine Jesus serving you?
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- **Prayer Prompt: ...he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. (John 13.4)**
- *Jesus, you came as the suffering servant, yet you are God's own Son. I am humbled to serve you as Lord. Amen.*

#### **FRIDAY: LUKE 12.35-40 (ESV)**

- We don't know when the master will return. We don't know the hour or day that Jesus will come back. Yet, people have tried to predict this for generations. Jesus wants readiness more than rightness. What if we are so distracted by our own predictions that we fail to notice his return?! In the space below, describe what a life of readiness would look like for you.
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- **Prayer Prompt:** “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16.33)
- *Jesus, I want to sit at your feet, free of the entanglement of earthly things. I am grateful for all that you have provided for me, help me to remember the Source. Amen.*

## SATURDAY: LUKE 12.35-40 (ESV)

- Revelation 3.20 says, *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.* We are the ones for whom Jesus is knocking on the door! He is coming back for his church! How can we prepare ourselves to hear the knocking and recognize his voice?

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- **Prayer Prompt:** **To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”(Revelation 3.21-22)**
- *God, I receive your Word as a promise. Burn away distractions and my own impulses that seem to drown out the sound of your voices calling to me. Amen.*

## GROUP DISCUSSION

- Below is a well known painting by Del Parson. In it, Jesus is knocking at the door. It’s a reflection of Revelation 3.20.
  - What do you notice about the painting? Why is there no handle on the door?
  - What do you imagine about the person on the other side of the door?
  - What is your reaction to the image of Jesus knocking on the door of your heart?

