

JESUS UNFILTERED

SERMON STUDY GUIDE | PART 7: Is Jesus Coming Back? | 2.18.18 | FOLLOW THE STORY ON FB @FACEBOOK.COM/THESTORYHOUSTON

It seems like we're always talking about why it's important to believe in Jesus, but when was the last time you stopped to think about *what Jesus believed?* Over the next month, we're going to take a closer look at Jesus' belief system by analyzing eight of his most famous parables. Here are the parables we've looked at so far:

- + The Parable of the Reckless Farmer (Matthew 13:1-23)
- + The Parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Lost Son (Luke 15)
- + The Parable of the Vineyard Workers (Matthew 20:1-16)
- + The Parables of the Two Debts (Luke 7:36-50) and the Two Prayers (Luke 18:9-14)
- + The Parable of The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)
- + The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

Today, we look at a parable about *watchfulness* (Luke 12:35-48) and ask the question: *What are we waiting for?* Jesus had a *lot* to say about the future and his Second Coming, but let's be honest: we'd rather stick to The Good Samaritan and The Golden Rule. Because at least we can make sense of that stuff. We'd rather leave this End Times stuff to the *Left Behind* series. But the truth is, Jesus taught so much about *eschatology* (the study of future things) for a reason: he wants us to understand future things as much as he wants us to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." **What do we make of Jesus' apocalyptic teachings?**

Luke 12:35-48: The Parable of the Vigilant Worker

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants 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. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. 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. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Peter asked, "Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?" 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? It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and then he begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. 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."

"The servant who knows the master's will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. 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."

No matter what you believe about God or the “End Times,” your _____ is always _____.

What do most Christians believe about God’s plans for the future of creation? What, in general, does the Bible say about *eschatology*?

How have some Christian popularizers, authors, and filmmakers sent the wrong message?

Jesus told other eschatological parables as well (see Matthew 13:24-40, 13:47-52, 21:33-46, 25:1-13, Luke 12:16-21, 13:6-9), and they all share two similar themes: _____ and _____. Believers should be _____ and _____.

Look at Matthew 22:1-14, *The Parable of the Wedding Party*. Why didn’t the invited guests come to the party? What group did they represent? What was the king’s response?

Why was the one guy kicked out of the party in verses 11-13? Who did he represent?

Let’s get back to the first parable from Luke 12:35-48, which begins with “Be dressed ready for service.” What do you think that phrase means?

Read verses 37-38. What does it mean that the “Master of the house will dress to serve...”?

Jesus ends this teaching by saying, “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.” What do you think this means for you?

In both parables (Matthew 22 and Luke 12), Jesus speaks of being *dressed* and ready. What does it mean to be dressed and ready for God? For reference, check out Galatians 3:27.

Preparedness is not about _____ (how you _____);
it’s about _____ (who you _____).

What parts of your *character* need to change?

What is holding you back from *surrendering* those character flaws to God?

What does baptism have to do with character formation?