

# 'On the road'

## Luke's account of the life and ministry of Jesus

Luke is up front about his intention in writing his gospel record: it was to help a man called Theophilus to have the confidence to trust in Jesus as Lord and Saviour. He wanted to bolster the embryonic faith of this man in the face of both the hostility he was likely to face and the adversity which almost certainly would be his experience.

The aim of this study of Luke's gospel, therefore, is to help us all "*fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith*", to the end that we "*run with perseverance the race marked out for us*" (see Heb.12.1-2)

You can find the background to this series [here](#).

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## 24. Luke 12.35-59 [w/b Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018]

*“.., you also must be ready ..”*

It's worth remembering that this whole section of Luke's gospel, largely unique to him, is set in the context of Jesus' journey from Galilee to Jerusalem: He is 'on the road' and travelling through Samaria. This is ministry out on the 'mission-field', which sees Him regularly using stories and pictures to communicate His message.

In the passage comprising this week's study, it's the note of *urgency* which is repeatedly sounded: He insists that there isn't any room for either delaying a decision or sitting on the fence.

*[Despite your best intentions, there may not be time for all the questions to be addressed in your Community Group! It may be helpful to try and ensure that in this study you cover questions 3, 5, and 6. As always try to leave good time for shared prayer!]*

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**1. Read Luke 12.35-59.** Read through the whole passage and get a sense of the flow of Jesus' teaching.

If you had to summarise in a sentence what Jesus is teaching here, how would you express it?

What bits of the passage strike home powerfully to you?

2. **Read Luke 12.35-40.** The previous passage has highlighted that living 'towards God' (v.21) involves living in the light of eternity: it's that *future* prospect which Jesus addresses now.

What point do the two parables He tells here make?

What are the different emphases in the two parables?

3. **Read Luke 12.41-46.** In response to Peter's question Jesus here seems to highlight the particular responsibilities which fall on those who are leaders.

To whom is Jesus referring when He speaks about '*the faithful and wise manager whom the master puts in charge of His servants*'?

Read **John 21.15-17**: what is the particular responsibility laid on such individuals?

According to what Jesus says, how will a firm belief in the 'second coming' impact and shape the life and ministry of the church?

4. **Read Luke 12.47-48.** Jesus here qualifies what He has just said to Peter by explaining the way in which 'culpability' is tied to knowledge.

What does Jesus mean here by being 'ready'?

How does what Jesus says here square with the reality and completeness of His forgiveness, as affirmed, for instance, by Paul in **Rom.8.1**?

**5. Read Luke 12.49-53.** Jesus' ministry has created something of a crisis for us all, obliging us to respond one way or another to Him.

To what do you think Jesus is referring, and why, when He speaks about the 'fire' which He has come to bring on earth?

How do Jesus' words that He has "*not come to bring peace on earth*" square with the song of the angels (Lk.2.14) and His being spoken of as 'the Prince of peace' (Isaiah 9.6)?

What has been your experience of the 'division' to which Jesus refers?

**6. Read Luke 12.54-56.** As He brings His teaching to something of a climax, Jesus exhorts His hearers to 'join the dots' and see the implications of all the indicators there are as to what is going on in His coming.

Jesus refers to two 'weather *warnings*': what are His hearers being warned about by 'this present time'?

How do you think we best sound this 'warning' note today?

**7. Read Luke 12.57-59.** The little cameo which rounds off His teaching here underlines again the need for urgency which Jesus has been impressing on His hearers throughout the passage.

To what is His exhortation here to 'settle out of court' pointing us?

What (if any) practical actions has this passage prompted you to take?