

**Pre-Sermon:** This is to help you prepare for hearing from God's Word.

- Read Luke 12:35-48
- What stands out to you?
- What are the commands in this passage? What are the encouragements? What are the illustrations?

**Sermon Questions:** These will help you evaluate how well you were listening.

- What is missing at the beginning of verse 35? What does that tell us?
- What is Jesus doing in this chapter as a whole so far? Who is he talking to? What is he talking to them about?
- What is Jesus mostly doing in the first part of his instructions to the disciples? (Hint: Think about the word warn and also all the don'ts.)
- Jesus shows the disciples the wrong approach. What are three characteristics of the wrong approach to life?
- Why is this wrong approach to life such a big deal to Jesus?
- What does the right approach to life look like?
- Where does the phrase stay dressed for action come from?
- What are the two contrasting illustrations in chapter 12 that give us a picture of the wrong approach and the right approach? What is so different about their whole attitude to life and things?

**Sermon Outline:** This is a simple guide to help you follow along as you listen

1. The wrong approach to life:
  - a. What it looks like:
    - i. Hypocrisy
    - ii. Fear of Dying
    - iii. Covetousness
    - iv. Anxiety about material things
  - b. Why it is wrong:
    - i. Eschatology!
2. The right approach to life:
  - a. What it looks like:
    - i. Seeking the kingdom
    - ii. Bold living
    - iii. Sacrificial giving
    - iv. Anticipating Christ's Return
  - b. Why we should take this approach:
    - i. God will take care of us
    - ii. God wants to give us the kingdom
    - iii. God will reward your obedience
    - iv. These two approaches are incompatible
    - v. There's a huge reversal coming
    - vi. Jesus is returning for certain even if we don't know when
    - vii. You are accountable for how you manage God's stuff
    - viii. The more you know the greater the possible judgment

**Sermon Synopsis:** This is a short summary that will help you reflect on the message.

We are in Luke 12:35-48. This passage is going to be a call to action. But it's going to take us a little while to get to it because if you look at the way it begins, there is something missing. What's missing is Luke talking about location or setting or anything like that, which means we're dropping

into the middle of a conversation Jesus is having. So we have to go back to the beginning of chapter 12 to remember what he is talking about since this is not totally new.

Chapter 12 begins with Jesus in the middle of a big crowd. But even though there are lots of people there and it feels chaotic, Jesus is talking to his disciples about how to live. For the first part of the sermon he is mostly negative. Probably because he has just come back from a meal with a whole bunch of religious people who were completely missing the point of life, as Jesus is talking to his followers, this is heavy on his heart and looking at his disciples and urgently desiring them not to miss the point either. So he shows them the wrong approach to life and then he shows them the right approach.

But he starts off with the wrong approach. This is important because you are not infinite and you have to establish priorities and you have been told all your life how to do that. There's a lot of pressure on you to think certain ways about what is important and what is not important. And you have to be able to identify the wrong approach, to know what it is and why it is wrong.

It's living as if we weren't going to be saved, as if this world right now and our lives right now is all there is. That's the mentality behind the wrong approach. And it's characterized by a lot of fear. Fear of the future and is driven by a desire to control the future, which we expect from unbelievers. But it is the standard approach to life for a lot of religious people as well. Jesus knows this is going to be a temptation for his followers, and so he shows them what this kind of life looks like specifically.

The first characteristic is hypocrisy. Second fear of dying. The third is covetousness, which is the one Jesus spends most of his time on. While this approach to life is very common, Jesus makes it clear that his followers must not live like this. You look at the reasons he gives and it is eschatology, basically. If you want to know how to live your life now, you have to start at the end and work backwards. How you live in the present should be guided by what you know about the future. And yet for a lot of people, it isn't, which is why Jesus first shows us the wrong approach. That's why he gives us the warning.

But what's the right approach? Jesus doesn't just critique. Two, he shows us the right approach.

And here's what it looks like. First, you seek his kingdom. Second, you do so courageously. Third, you give to the needy sacrificially. Fourth, you live life in a state of eager anticipation for the return of Christ.

That is obviously a very different kind of life. Why would you live like that? One God will take care of you. Two, because He wants to give you the kingdom. Third, because He will reward obedience. Fourth, because there's no neutrality. Fifth, there's a huge reversal that is coming. Sixth, no matter how long it takes, that reversal is going to happen. Seventh, you are accountable for how you manage God's stuff. Eighth, that accountability is greater for those who have more revelation.

**Application Questions:** These are some thoughts that may help put the message into practice.

- How you live now should reveal what you believe about the future. And yet you have been trained in a way to live now that doesn't always match up with what you believe about the future. Therefore you have to think about the way you live now. There are two basic approaches people take to life in this world. Jesus critiques the wrong approach in this passage and lays out a grand and compelling vision for how we ought to live as his followers. In your own words, what is the fundamental difference between the two approaches?
- Evaluate your life in light of the characteristics of the wrong approach and the right approach. What does the way you are living life right now say about what you believe about the future?
- If you start at what you believe is going to happen in the end and work backwards to how you are living right now, what would change about your attitude and the way you are living right now?