

Sermon Guide

The King is Here: Eat With Your Belt On

All Christians believe that Jesus will return to remake the world someday, but how should we live as a result of this?

In Luke 12v35-48, Jesus paints a picture of what it means to be ready for His return. We are called to live with a readiness that says no to greed, gluttony, and the pursuit of luxury. We are called to be obedient to God's voice, stewarding our God-given earthly blessings well by showing care and generosity to those around us. This type of life reflects our hope in the goodness of God and His ultimate return.

May the continual filling of the Holy Spirit keep your lamp burning, in Jesus' name.

Go Deeper.

Our desire is that every person would be empowered to have a deep and intimate relationship with God. We want people to not just hear a word on a Sunday, but get activated in whatever the Holy Spirit is doing throughout the week. The guide is a tool for you to dive deeper into what God is doing in you and through you as an ambassador of the Kingdom.

You can work through these activations and questions on your own or in a group setting. If you are doing them in a group, take turns leading. After each activation, take time to pray into whatever the Holy Spirit is speaking. It is also encouraged to have a journal and Bible with you.

For each activation focus will be key. We become like what we give our attention to, and one of the best ways to worship is to focus. Often we will ask that you close your eyes, if this helps you focus, then great, if it's something else that helps you focus, then do that.

Before each activation, take a moment to be still before the Lord. These are not exercises to rush through or items on a to-do list to check off. They are invitations to commune with God and to go deeper. Turn your attention toward Him and invite Him into this time.

Discussion

- How do you feel like reading Scripture has made an impact on your relationship with God?
- Alex talked about how the name Israel means to wrestle with God. His desire is that we would connect with Him despite our questions. How does that sit with you? Are you afraid to wrestle with God? To meet Him in reality?
- How have greed, gluttony, and the pursuit of luxury impacted your walk with Jesus?
- How have you used materials to cover pain in your life?

Activation #1

God desires that you have relationship with Him through the Bible, not a relationship with the Bible.

Ask, "Holy Spirit, how do you want to grow in me a love for your Word?" He may tell you to focus on reading a particular chapter or book in this season. Or He may show you a physical place that He wants you to spend that time with Him.

Write or draw whatever you hear.

Ask, "Father, what do you want to reveal to me through the Word?"

Write down what you hear.

Pray, "God, I desire to be in love with your Word. Would you reveal yourself to me through the Scriptures in a new way."

Activation #2

As followers of Jesus, we are called to not get caught up in civilian affairs. We are called to live light.

Take a moment, in your mind, to put your material items before the Lord. Ask him, "Where have I let greed or the pursuit of luxury win the war for my heart?"

Write down what you hear.

Now ask, "In order to live light, is there anything that I need to physically get rid of?"

Write down what you hear.

Ask, "Father, is there something in my life that I have tried to get for myself that you actually want to bless me with?"

Conclude this time by surrendering your material possessions to the Lord. Tell Him that you don't want these things to hold weight in your life anymore.

Ask, "Jesus, as your betrothed, what does it look like to put you above anything else?"

Ways to Pray

- That we would be a family that travels light, always ready for Him.
- That we would be lovers of the Word of God, unafraid to meet Him in reality and wrestle.
- For the kids in our church to have life altering encounters with the person of Jesus.
- For young adults, that the fires that we are starting to see, would continue to grow until George Fox is won over by the gospel.
- Young people would continue to emerge as leaders of the next generation for Jesus.