

## Bible Study for Sunday August 7, 2022

### Our texts for this Sunday are:

- Luke 12:32-40
- Hebrews 11:1-3 & 8-16

**Opening question:** Here are two versions of our Gospel text. Do you like one more than the other? Why?

### Luke 12:32-48 (NRSV)

32“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 35“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; 36be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. 37Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. 38If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. 39“But know 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. 40You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

### Luke 12:32-40 The Message

<sup>29-32</sup> “What I’m trying to do here is get you to relax, not be so preoccupied with *getting* so you can respond to God’s *giving*. People who don’t know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Don’t be afraid of missing out. You’re my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself. <sup>33-34</sup> “Be generous. Give to the poor. Get yourselves a bank that can’t go bankrupt, a bank in heaven far from bankrobbers, safe from embezzlers, a bank you can bank on. It’s obvious, isn’t it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

**(When the Master Shows Up)** <sup>35-38</sup> “Keep your shirts on; keep the lights on! Be like house servants waiting for their master to come back from his honeymoon, awake and ready to open the door when he arrives and knocks. Lucky the servants whom the master finds on watch! He’ll put on an apron, sit them at the table, and serve them a meal, sharing his wedding feast with them. It doesn’t matter what time of the night he arrives; they’re awake—and so blessed! <sup>39-40</sup> “You know that if the house owner had known what night the burglar was coming, he wouldn’t have stayed out late and left the place unlocked. So don’t you be lazy and careless. Just when you don’t expect him, the Son of Man will show up.”

What do you like about this text? What do you wish wasn’t in there?

Vs 34 says “For where your *treasure* is, there your heart will be also.” What should we, as a body of Christ followers, treasure or value? What does our SOH mission statement actually say about that?

And are we using all our individual and collective resources for the living out of the mission statement? If not, why are we not?

Sister Tashina talked in her sermon opener on Youth Sunday (July 24) about how the line in our Lord's Prayer "Your Kingdom come" is an actionable item. What do you think that means for us as we say that prayer each week? How might this text be speaking about doing God's Kingdom building work? And how might our *treasure storing* work for or against that Kingdom work?

It is curious that the word used in verse 34 for *treasure* (storehouse, treasure chest, a place to store things of value) is the noun form of the verb used in Luke 12:21, where the rich man was *storing* all his excess stuff for himself but dies before being able to enjoy any of it. What do you think Jesus is getting at with this? Is storing good/bad/neutral? What resources do we store up? When should we store and when should we use our stored resources?

Read verses 35-40 carefully. Do these verses sound like they're about Jesus' second coming...or something else? What else might it be revealing? If this is about Jesus coming when we die (judgment) why does the text speak about Him serving us at a table? Could it be about something else?

### **Hebrews 11:1-3 & 8-16**

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. <sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." <sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

What does "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" mean to you? When something for which you fervently hope looks like it will never happen, how do you handle it?

When we pray "Thy Kingdom come"....how does that compare with vs 16 "But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one....(God) has prepared a city for them"? Is this "prepared city" coming here or only a "when we get to Heaven" thing? How does that measure with Revelation 21:2? And if it's coming here, how are we supposed to prepare for it's coming?