"You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (Luke 12:40)

As our study reaches the home stretch, we want to spend our last three lessons looking into the final "season" of Jesus' teaching—a season of confrontation full of parables leading hearers into the **crisis of decision**.

Having announced the surprising arrival of heaven's kingdom and devoting a couple of years to teaching about its upside-down nature, Jesus reached the point of straightforwardly and unashamedly calling for a response. But what happens if I decide *not* to respond to the true and rightful King?

Take the time to carefully read these "crisis of decision" parables (and their surrounding context). **What do they help us see?** How does the arrival and upside-down nature of the kingdom of heaven impact *everything*?

- A master comes home from a wedding feast (Luke 12:35-48) -

- The barren fig tree (Luke 13:6-9) -

- Tower building & a warring king (Luke 14:25-35) -

"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning…" How do those words Peter heard in Luke 12:35 relate to what he would eventually write years later in 1 Peter 1:13-16?

For Next Week...

We'll continue our walk through this last "season" of Jesus' teaching and the confrontations that naturally followed. Want to work ahead? Take the time to thoughtfully read Matthew 21:23-44. Once you have, look at it through the "kingdom of heaven" lens we've been spending so much time studying. Notice especially what Matthew tells us in 21:45-46:

> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

How was Jesus leading his hearers (then and now) into what we could call a kingdom-confrontation? What decision were the chief priests and Pharisees making? And how will we *all* make the same decision, one way or another?