

# THE PARABLES OF Jesus

## “It’s Time to Decide” Parables

## Lesson 10

“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 few lessons looking into the final “season” of Jesus’ teaching. Having announced the surprising arrival of heaven’s kingdom, after devoting a couple of years to teaching about its upside-down nature, Jesus—knowing that “the days drew near for him to be taken up” (Luke 9:51)—started more and more straightforwardly calling for a response. “You also must be ready.” But what happens if I decide *not* to respond to the news of the kingdom of heaven?

Let’s take the time to carefully read these “it’s time to decide” 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*?

•🌀 **The parable of a master coming home** (Luke 12:35-48)

The call: “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast...”



•🌀 **The parable of a barren fig tree** (Luke 13:1-9)

The comparison: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none...”



•🌀 **The parables of a tower builder and a warring king**  
(Luke 14:25-35)

The challenge: “So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”



So what do you think? What do these “it’s time to decide” parables mean? Why did Jesus tell them? What do they teach us about the kingdom of heaven? **Let’s talk about it...**



### **For Class & Family Discussion:**

Let's take a moment to look back at [Luke 9:51](#). What is Luke telling us? How does it relate to the parables that come after Jesus had "[set his face to go to Jerusalem](#)"? What's on Jesus' mind?

Why would Jesus grow more and more straightforward in calling for a response to the news of the kingdom of heaven? Why "it's time to decide"? Why not just leave people alone or let them do their own thing, in their own time?

What stands out to you in the parable of the master coming home ([Luke 12:35-48](#))?

In your own words, what does it mean to "[stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning](#)" ([12:35](#))? What did Jesus mean by, "[you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect](#)" ([12:40](#))?

Looking back at our second parable ([Luke 13:1-9](#)), what does it have to do with the kingdom of heaven? How is Jesus challenging his hearers (then and now) to make a decision? What *is* that decision?

What stands out to you about our third set of parables ([Luke 14:25-35](#))? Why, if "[great crowds accompanied](#)" Jesus, would he turn and say what he said to them?

Jesus' words in [14:26](#) sound really, really challenging. What did he mean? And what about his summary in [14:33](#)? What do we need to see and remember this week?