

LAST CHANCE • LUKE 12:35-13:35

This section in Luke's gospel is comprised of several stories and teachings of Jesus that are centered on a common theme. Jesus is inexorably headed for Jerusalem, and the nation is receiving their final opportunity to respond. The window of opportunity is closing fast, and Jesus is pleading and warning them that this is their last chance to place their faith in Him and avert national judgment. At the same time, knowing what their response will be, Jesus unveils to His disciples how the kingdom of God will be manifested in light of his rejection.

Read Luke 12:35-48

1. Why do you think it is at this juncture that Jesus begins to talk about His Second Coming?
2. From the Old Testament picture, the Messiah was supposed to gather together the nation of Israel, restoring all relationships. Rather than gathering the nation, Jesus now speaks of dividing it. Why?
3. How do you think these messages would have been different if Israel had been responsive to Jesus?

Read Luke 12:54-13:8

4. What are the similar messages of these vignettes?
5. As Jesus prepares His disciples for how God's kingdom will be established in light of Israel's rejection, He still holds out the call for the nation to repent. Why?
6. One reason the people did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah, is that they were looking for more of a political leader, or majestic king. In what ways do people misidentify Jesus and His message today?

Read Luke 13:10-17

7. What did the Sabbath symbolize to Israel?

8. Read Hebrews 4:1-11. How was Jesus the fulfillment of the Sabbath?

9. In light of this, what else might be symbolic in the story?

10. Why couldn't the Jews see the symbolism in what Jesus was doing?

Read Luke 13:18-21

11. In light of this passage, describe how God's kingdom would be established in the following scenarios.
How the Kingdom would have been established if Jesus had been received by Israel as their Messiah:

How the kingdom would be established as a result of their rejection:

Read Luke 13:22-30

12. Who does the person knocking at the door represent in this story?

13. In 13: 28-30, Jesus gives one more piece to the puzzle of what the new kingdom plan will look like. What is it?

14. How does this closing story bring us back to Luke narrative theme?

Memory Verse

Luke 12:40 "You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."