

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Sunday, June 25, 2023



CHURCH

הקהילה מתקדמת

10:30am Sunday 13095 Publishers Drive, Fishers

Today's Message: **PREPARED!**
Pastor Gary Stump
Luke 12:35-59

Don't we make sure we're prepared for things that are going to happen?

Proverbs 22:3 (NLT) A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

We prepare for many things, but are we really prepared for what matters most?

In our text today (Luke 12:35-59), Jesus tells us to be prepared, but prepared for what?

1. Prepared for His Coming (vv. 35-40)

Luke 12:35-40 (NLT) "Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning,³⁶ as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks.³⁷ The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat!³⁸ He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn. But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready.³⁹ "Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would not permit his house to be broken into.⁴⁰ You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected."

Revelation 22:20 (NLT) "Yes, I am coming soon!" Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

John 14:3b (ESV) "I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

Revelation 16:15 (NLT) "Look, I will come as unexpectedly as a thief! Blessed are all who are watching for me, who keep their clothing ready so they will not have to walk around naked and ashamed."

Philippians 3:20 (NLT) But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NLT) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves.¹⁷ Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.

2. Prepared for His Service (vv. 41-48)

Luke 12:41-48 (NLT) Peter asked, "Lord, is that illustration just for us or for everyone?"⁴² And the Lord replied, "A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them.⁴³ If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward.⁴⁴ I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns.⁴⁵ But what if the servant thinks, 'My master won't be back for a while,' and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk?⁴⁶ The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant in pieces and banish him with the unfaithful.⁴⁷ "And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn't prepared and doesn't carry out those instructions, will be severely punished.⁴⁸ But someone who does not know, and then does something

wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.”

1 Peter 3:15 (NLT) *Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.*

3. Prepared for Persecution (vv. 49-53)

Luke 12:49–53 (NLT) *“I have come to set the world on fire, and I wish it were already burning!⁵⁰ I have a terrible baptism of suffering ahead of me, and I am under a heavy burden until it is accomplished.⁵¹ Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I have come to divide people against each other!⁵² From now on families will be split apart, three in favor of me, and two against—or two in favor and three against.⁵³ ‘Father will be divided against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’”*

Luke 14:26 (NLT) *“If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.*

2 Timothy 3:12 (NLT) *Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

4. Prepared for the Future (vv. 54-59)

Luke 12:54–59 (NLT) *Then Jesus turned to the crowd and said, “When you see clouds beginning to form in the west, you say, ‘Here comes a shower.’ And you are right.⁵⁵ When the south wind blows, you say, ‘Today will be a scorcher.’ And it is.⁵⁶ You fools! You know how to interpret the weather signs of the earth and sky, but you don’t know how to interpret the present times.⁵⁷ “Why can’t you decide for yourselves what is right?⁵⁸ When you are on the way to court with your accuser, try to settle the matter before you get there. Otherwise, your accuser may drag you before the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, who will throw you into prison.⁵⁹ And if that happens, you won’t be free again until you have paid the very last penny.”*

Signs of Messiah → Prepare to meet God

Amos 4:12b (NLT) *“Prepare to meet your God in judgment, you people of Israel!”*

Time is short!

Romans 13:11–12 (NLT) *This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.¹² The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living.*

NOTE: All Bible authors connect preparing for the future with righteous living.

SO WHAT? Do you spend more time planning for your retirement than you do for your eternity?

Titus 2:12–14 (NIV84) *It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

Are you living in purity in expectation of Jesus’ soon return?

1 Peter 1:13 (NLT) *So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world.*



ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023

1. FAMILY CAMP—SEPTEMBER 8-10—REGISTER TODAY—at Blue Gate Inn, Shipshewana.
Cost \$125 per person or \$299 per family.

Includes:

Hotel rooms Friday & Saturday nights
Buffet Breakfasts & Saturday Dinner included (Friday dinner & Saturday lunch on your own)
Family-building activities and sessions
Children's Program
Indoor pool & hot tub, ice cream parlor, game room, basketball courts, fire pits
Antique Shopping; Amish Country
2 ½ hour drive

Register with QR Code →



2. 2023 ONWARD TO JERUSALEM BIBLE STUDY TOUR OCTOBER 20-31, 2023—Walk where Jesus walked and see the Bible comes alive as Pastor Gary and our good friend Dr. Moshe Loewenthal lead us on this incredible tour.
Estimated cost: \$3,955 per person (double occupancy).

3. YOUTH GROUP SUNDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE:

June 18	No Youth Group (Father's Day)	July 23	No youth group
June 21-25	YOUTH CAMP! (see below)	July 30	Youth Group Fun Night
June 25	No Youth Group (Youth Camp)	Aug 6	No youth group
July 2	Fun Night	Aug 13	Youth Group Last Summer Hurrah
July 9	No youth group	Aug 20	Youth Group
July 16	Fun Night		

4. PAL ("PARENTS OF ADDICTED LOVED ONES") MEETING—This is for families of adult children dealing with substance addiction. Every Tuesday night, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Free weekly meetings. Dr. Nancy Smith, facilitator. For more information, contact nancy1108smith@gmail.com or 317-508-8149.

5. ONWARD PRAYER RESPONSE CARD ONLINE—To make it easier for some to complete your Prayer Response Card... you can **scan this QR code.** →

