

Light in the Darkness



Talk summary:

New-born King 1 – It's Advent. Be prepared! [Luke 12:35-48]

As we enter into the Advent season, God wants to prepare our hearts to meet with Jesus Christ, the light of the World, both in remembrance of the incarnation at Christmas, but also in His second coming. He will come as a thief in the night, and we are to live lives of expectation and readiness for a new heaven and a new earth. How might God want to prepare us to live in the reality of his return more fully?

READING: Luke 12:35-38 (Be ready for the Lord's coming)

Jesus said, "Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, 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. 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! 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".

1. The Challenge of Waiting for God (Luke 12:35)
We don't know when Jesus will return, but despite this, as we wait, we should prepare
What we do while we are waiting may affect the outcome - we should be active not passive
Advent is a time of waiting and preparing not just for Christmas but for the return of Jesus
2. The Challenge of God waiting for us (2 Peter 3:15a)
God's patience gives us all time to prepare for the return of Jesus and to be saved
We should use our time, our talents and our treasures to bless others during our lives
We are all uniquely equipped to fulfil God's purpose for our lives – we just have to do it
3. The Challenge of Working together (Hebrews 10:25)
As part of God's Kingdom on Earth we can change things for good working together
We should not fear His return, but be keen to tell Him what we have been doing for Him
As the Springfield community we can bring light into darkness as we await the new-born King

Questions:

Conversation Starter

*How do you feel when you are waiting? Is it easier if you know how long the wait will be?
Do you think the return of Jesus will be an event at a moment in history, or when we die?
If we are in a situation where we are waiting for God to act, might He be waiting for us?*

What might God be saying to me about this theme/situation?

What have I learnt that I want to hold on to?

How am I going to put it into practice?