

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

HOME SECURITY

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

Being prepared (Luke 12: 32-40)

All three Synoptic Gospels portray Jesus issuing clear warnings to his followers to be alert and prepared. It is like slaves waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet. The slaves need to stay alert. They do not know precisely when their master may come. It is like the owner of the house being prepared for a break-in. He does not know precisely when the thief will come. The owner of the house needs to stay alert. Luke presents this teaching after Jesus had set his face to go to Jerusalem (see 9: 51) and the timing of his arrest remains uncertain. In 12: 41 Peter asks Jesus whether these parables are 'for us or for everyone'? The people of God need to continue to be alert and to be prepared.

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's account of Jesus' teaching to be alert and to be prepared is *home security*.

Core extract from the Gospel (Luke 12: 39-40; for reflection throughout the week)

Jesus said, 'But know this:
if the owner of the house
had known at what hour the thief was coming,
he would not have let his house be broken into.
You also must be ready,
for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Lord Jesus Christ,
you call your people
to be ready for your coming.
Prepare our hearts,
that we may be ready to welcome you;
for you are our God.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Luke 12: 32-40

‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Watchful Slaves

‘Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (Luke 12: 32-40)

Begin to explore Luke's account of Jesus' teaching to be alert and prepared by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What was in Jesus' mind when he spoke these parables?
- What was in Luke's mind when he wrote these parables?
- What is in the Church's mind when these parables are read today?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore parallels in Mark and Matthew regarding treasure.

- Mark 10: 21
- Matthew 19: 21
- Matthew 6: 19-21

Explore Matthew's parables on being prepared.

- Matthew 24: 42-51

Explore images to watch.

- Psalm 130: 6
- Mark 14: 32-42

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (YEAR C) Sunday 7 August 2022

Exploring online

Widen your exploration of Luke's account of Jesus' teaching to be alert and prepared by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Parable of the watchful servants
- Commentary on Luke 12
- Home security

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's account of Jesus' teaching to be alert and prepared is *home security*. Draw on your own experience of home security. For example:

- What precautions do you take to protect your home?
- Have you experience of a break-in?
- What do you think about neighbourhood watch schemes?

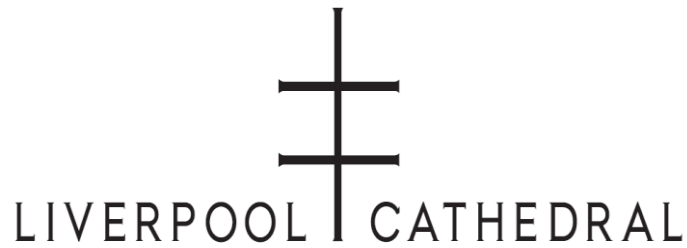
What have you learned about home security?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Luke's account of Jesus' teaching to be alert and prepared or by the image of home security.

- Make a poster telling the parable of the watchful slaves.
- Make a collage of home security devices.
- Promote your local neighbourhood watch scheme.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of Jesus' teaching to be alert and prepared or the image of home security.

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EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to smc.lesliefrancis@gmail.com.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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