

## Luke Chapter 12

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V: 1-3 In the mean time – while He was conversing / debating with the Pharisees over dinner, outside there gathered a great crowd of people a throng who had probably heard the loud voices and wanted to hear it what was going on inside.

- Jesus turns from the debate to warn and instruct His disciples to beware of the “leaven” of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy.

Leaven = sin.

**Matthew 12:33** “Either make the tree good and his fruit good, or else make the tree corrupt and his fruit corrupt; for the tree is known by his fruit.”

**1 Corinthians 5:7-8** “<sup>7</sup>Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. <sup>8</sup>Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

- The Pharisees had a penchant for perfecting the outward appearance, but it was a sham – they were saying one thing and doing another, they were being hypocrites and it would appear that their private conversations revealed much about who they really were.
- The word for hypocrite in Greek is “hupokrisis” which literally means “wearing a mask”. In the Greek theater the actors would wear exaggerated masks to depict them as happy or sad, or villainous – but it was just a mask.

**Numbers 32:23** “... be sure your sin will find you out.”

- There are no secrets from God, He sees and hears all things – and He particularly knows the thoughts and intents of our hearts – and eventually all things shall be revealed.

V: 4-5 Jesus is telling His **friends** / disciples not to fear because they are seeing the anger of the religious leaders, their “discussion” had become heated, they saw the hatred, the veins standing up on their necks, and the hard stares directed at Jesus – and knew they would probably be next.

- We have a choice in whom we’ll fear:

**Matthew 10:28** “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

**Proverbs 29:25** “The fear of man bringeth a snare, but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.”

V: 6-7 Speaking of value by comparison: sparrows / men, and also of God's omniscience.

**Genesis 1:27** "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female created He them."

- Men are made in God's image, sparrows are not.
- Jesus died for mankind, not for the natural kingdom.

V: 8-9 Jesus instructs us about fear prior to calling us to be un-wavering in our faith, to be bold in our witness, and to never shrink back; He is encouraging us to be witnesses for Jesus.

**Romans 10:9-10** "9That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

**Hebrews 10:38-39** "38Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

**Luke 9:26** "For whosoever shall be ashamed of Me and of My words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in His own glory, and in His Father's and of the holy angels."

### **Polycarp:**

V: 10 Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, rejecting the testimony of the Holy Spirit.

- Not the sins of adultery, fornication, homo sexuality, abortion, or insurance fraud.
- Disbelief is essentially calling the Holy Spirit a liar = blasphemy.

**John 15:26** "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me."

Stephen declared just before they killed him:

**Acts 7:51** "Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye."

**1 John 1:10** "If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."

**2 Corinthians 6:1-2** "1We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. 2For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I

succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

**Hebrews 10:26-27** “<sup>26</sup>For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup>But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”

- This blasphemy of the Holy Spirit can happen through our speech – what we declare, and it can happen through our actions – having heard then purposefully not acting upon that information – going in the opposite direction.

V: 11-12     When these things happen, not if...

**John 16:33** “These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

**2 Timothy 3:12** “<sup>12</sup>Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

- But He will give us the words to say at just the right moment.

**Matthew 10:19-20** “<sup>19</sup>But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. <sup>20</sup>For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.”

**John 14:26** “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

- Acts Ch. 7: Steven’s “apology” before the Sanhedrin.

V: 13-15     This person came to Jesus asking Him to act in the capacity of a judge, saying that essentially his brother was being unfair with him.

- Jesus rebuffs this man and turns to the crowd to warn them about covetousness and of being materialistic.
- This instruction about covetousness was somehow related to the man who would have Jesus’ help with his inheritance. There was probably more to the story between these brothers but Jesus cut to the real issue – what are you striving for and why are you striving for it? It came down to covetousness in some way.

V: 16-21 This rich man when he was blessed with abundance and was trying to figure out what he should do with it, apparently he didn't consider giving the excess to the poor or to the Temple, or seeking to bless others in a way he was hoarding it to himself.

- This is a picture of a man who is not satisfied, nor is he thinking about what the Lord would have him to do.

**Hebrews 13:5** “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

- God said that he was foolish because he didn't know that he wouldn't live to enjoy it – but should have invested it and sent it ahead.

**Matthew 6:19-21** <sup>19</sup>Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: <sup>20</sup>But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doeth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

- Jesus is saying that if we've been blessed we should be giving to God – richly, generously.

V: 22-30 God will always supply our needs:

**Romans 8:32** “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

**Philippians 4:6-7, 11.** <sup>6</sup>Be careful / anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” –

[Paul knew about being in want:](#)

**Philippians 4:11** <sup>11</sup>Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”

- Our issues usually come when we have desires that are greater than our needs:

**Proverbs 30:8-9** <sup>8</sup>Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: <sup>9</sup>Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.”

**1 Timothy 6:6-9** <sup>6</sup>But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup>For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. <sup>8</sup>Having food and raiment let us be therewith content. <sup>9</sup>But they that will

be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.”

**Psalm 37:25** “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.”

V: 30 To worry about material things is to live like the heathen.

**Psalm 20:7** “Some trust in chariots, some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord or God.”

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V: 31 If we put God first in our lives, making Him our highest priority, living to please Him, then He’ll take care of the rest.

**Matthew 6:33** “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

**Matthew 5:6** “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

- First – before all else. This goes beyond food and clothing, beyond every issue in our lives.

**Job 23:12** “Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”

**2 Timothy 2:2-3** “<sup>2</sup>Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

- Priorities, God first. Seek the kingdom of God first. God will take care of these other things if you put Him first.
- What happens when we don’t put Him first, when we put these other things first? Then your whole life will be spent trying to get enough food, trying to get enough clothes, and that will be your whole life, and you won’t have time for the Lord.
- All your time will be absorbed in just trying to get by, just to make a living, just trying to exist and survive – what a shallow life that would be.

**1 John 2:15-17** “<sup>15</sup>Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. <sup>17</sup>And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”

V: 32 Remember that this dialogue started with V:13 and the man interrupting Jesus to get Him to intervene about his inheritance – he’s worried about his inheritance in this world so Jesus is addressing our inheritance in heaven which is far better.

- Fear not – don’t be afraid – it is God’s will to give us much more than food and clothes, He wants us to have the kingdom as well.

**2 Peter 1:2-3** “<sup>2</sup>Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup>according as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

- When God the Father, gave us Jesus the Son – He gave us the kingdom of heaven; where Jesus is, that is heaven!

**Romans 8:32** “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

**1 John 5:11** “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”

V: 33-34 “Sell what you have, and give it to the poor...”

- Jesus said the same thing to the rich young ruler who asked what more he must do enter into the kingdom of Heaven – it came down to how he related to his stuff, the value that he gave it – here it’s the same thing: what is more important?
- Put your investment into eternal things, not worldly things.

**1 Peter 1:3-4** “<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. <sup>4</sup>To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”

- Where treasure is our heart is in the same place – but what do we treasure, what do we value? It shouldn’t be worldly treasure, but heavenly treasure:

**1 Timothy 6:10** “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

**Matthew 16:26** “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

V: 35-36 Jesus begins to speak of His return, the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus.

- Be prepared, be dressed and ready, light's burning: up and awake, also our light burning brightly for Jesus.

**Luke 21:36** "Watch therefore and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

- In the parable of the 10 virgins: their lights had gone out – let your light be burning.
- Loins girded: in those days men wore long robes that went down to their feet, they weren't always easy to move around in but when they were going to work or fight they would gather their robes up and tie them off with a sash to hold them up so they had the freedom of movement to work or fight.
- Have your loins girded and your light burning – be ready.

V: 37-38 Blessing to those whom He finds waiting and watching:

1. At the last supper Jesus girded Himself and served the disciples – He will do the same for us, for those who are waiting and watching – we will set down to His table prepared for us.

**Revelation 19:9** "... blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb..."

2. If the master comes home, returns very late even the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> watch and finds his servants faithfully waiting – blessed is that servant.

2<sup>nd</sup> watch, midnight watch was from 9 PM -12 AM.

3<sup>rd</sup> watch, the cockcrowing was from 12-3 AM.

**2 Timothy 4:8** "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."

V: 39-40 Jesus will return like a "thief in the night" – meaning at a time when He's not expected – so always be ready.

**Matthew 24:36** "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

- We're to live with a sense of expectancy, understanding that our Lord could return at any time

V: 41-44 Are you talking to us or to everybody. Jesus is speaking to the faithful and wise – which he defined earlier as those who were obedient to His Word.

**Matthew 7:24** “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.”

- Wise “steward” – those that have used My things, which were entrusted to him, the steward, and used for the benefit of the Master.
- God will reward that faithful and wise servant, he shall be blessed, and be made a ruler in the kingdom of heaven.

**2 Timothy 2:12** “If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us.”

V: 45-48 “But” – on the other hand: If that servant says in his heart there really isn’t any big hurry, our Lord delays his coming – with that lax attitude comes lax and abusive behavior.

- Mistreating others, self indulgence, carnality – which when his Lord finds when He appears un-expectedly leads to judgment, his portion with unbelievers.
- In some ways this relates to the mid-trip and post-trip views of the rapture of the church, those that would say my master delays his coming – there is no big hurry, plenty of time, set down, relax have a drink, beat a servant...
- This servant who knew his Lord’s will and didn’t do it will be held accountable for what he knew.
- There will be degrees of punishment.

**Matthew 16:27** “The Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works.”

- The distinction between the good steward and the bad steward:

**1 Peter 5:2-4** “<sup>2</sup>Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; <sup>3</sup>neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. <sup>4</sup>And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

V: 49 Jesus is speaking of His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming – fire speaks of judgment, a fire that is already kindled.

**Revelation 19:11-16** “<sup>11</sup>And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in



righteousness He doth judge and make war. <sup>12</sup>His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. <sup>13</sup>And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup>And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup>And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup>And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, **KING of kings, and Lord of lords.**”

V: 50 The baptism Jesus speaks of is His own death and crucifixion.

- James & John made a request of Jesus through their mother:

**Matthew 20:22** “But Jesus answered and said, ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup <sup>(death)</sup> that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism <sup>(suffering)</sup> that I am baptized with? They say unto Him, we are able.”

- “Straightened”, NKJV uses “distressed”, more the idea of constrained, pressing towards the goal – straining at the end of a race.

V: 51-53 People are always divided over Jesus, over the Word of God. The division between believers and non-believers.

Jesus is referring to a prophecy from Micah:

**Micah 7:6** “For son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man’s enemies are the men of his own house.”

- This is about our closest relationships. Notice that it doesn’t mention husbands & wives. We can’t choose our parents or brother’s and sisters, but we do get to choose our spouses.

**2 Corinthians 6:14** “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?”

- Sometimes a declaration of faith is tantamount to a declaration of war!
- I am so grateful for my church family – the church family is my family.

**3 John 4** “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

V: 54-57 Moving from instruction to His disciples, He now addresses the people in general:

- “You know about worldly things like the weather, but you have no understanding of heavenly things, of spiritual things.”
- You discern the weather and seasons – you should also be able to discern the times we live in.

**Romans 13:11** “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”

- They should have known the prophecies and that the time for the Messiah had come.
- Had they studied the scriptures they would have known that it has been 483 years since the commandment went forth to restore and rebuild Jerusalem according to the prophecies in Daniel and Micah, that at the end of the 483 years the Messiah would appear, coming into Jerusalem riding on a donkey.
- I believe that we will be held to the same standard, knowing what the end times will look like, the events that will take place – not knowing the day or the hour, but certainly the season and the expectation that we will be waiting and watching, eagerly anticipating.

V: 58-59 Settle things now while you have a say in the matter.

- If you wait for the judge to settle it may not turn out very good for you.
- Jesus paid a debt for us that we could never repay, if we end up before the judge His righteous judgment will require that the debt be paid in full.
- Since we don't have the resources it will mean everlasting payment in hell.

**2 Corinthians 6:2** “... behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”