

## Luke Chapter 12

**Reading: Luke 12:1-12**

V: 1 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 parts of the discussion and pressing in, wanting to hear what was going on inside.

- This “**innumerable multitude**” wasn’t gathered outside so much to hear the discussion, they were gathered in waiting because they wanted to hear from Jesus. The invitation from the Pharisee to dinner had put the previous Bible study on hold / pause - they were waiting to hear more.

**Psalm 42:1-2** “**<sup>1</sup>As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. <sup>2</sup>My soul thirsts for God, for the living God...**”

- I wonder what effect the presence of this large group of people surrounding the house of the Pharisee had on the conversation? Was it intimidating? Was it maddening? What if any effect did it have?

**Luke 5:15** “**However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities.**”

V: 1b-3 Jesus turns from the contentious discussion to warn and instruct His disciples to beware of the “leaven” of the Pharisees, which He does on multiple occasions, then He defines what their leaven is, which is hypocrisy - saying one thing and doing something else.

“**Leaven**” (G-2219) “zume” / (H-7603) “s’or” = sin. Leaven when introduced to bread dough will eventually “leaven” or permeate the whole loaf. It works by decomposition, fermentation - causing the dough to rise, through gaseous air bubbles, which like the sin of pride causes one to be puffed up.

**1 Corinthians 5:7-8** “**<sup>6</sup>Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? <sup>7</sup>Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. <sup>8</sup>Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor 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.
- Jesus is telling them that He knows all about their closed door meetings, their secret deliberations, the things they’ve spoken in the dark that will one day be revealed.

**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.

Speaking of God:

**Daniel 2:22** “He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him.”

V: 4-5 Jesus is telling His **friends** / disciples: Those that He has a relationship with.

- Because of the shed blood of Jesus we too can not only have a relationship with God, and we too can be classified as his friends.

**James 2:23** “And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.”

**James 4:4** “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” (We choose to be friends or not.)

- The message: “*do not be afraid.*” They are seeing the “vehement” anger of the religious leaders as they “*assail*” and “*cross-examine*” our Lord (according to the last couple of verses in the last chapter) This might have been intimidating to them as His followers knowing that this would probably be directed at them if they continued to follow Jesus. Which by the way was and is still true.

Jesus said:

**John 15:18-20** “<sup>18</sup>If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup>If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup>Remember the word that I said to you, a servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My Word, they will keep yours also.”

- We have a choice in whom we'll fear: fear should be appropriately directed.

**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 brings a snare, but whoso puts his trust in the Lord shall be safe.”

**Proverbs 9:10** “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

V: 6-7 Speaking of value by comparison: sparrows vs: men, and also speaking of God's omniscience. God knows us and our situation so well, even how many hairs are on our head, or in extraordinary cases how many are not.

**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.
- These two facts give mankind incredible value.

**Matthew 10:31** “Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

- Just to emphasize the point you can take the word “sparrows” out and replace it with eagles, frogs, spotted owls, wolves, and Sacramento river smelt's.

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 not shrink back; He is encouraging us to be bold witnesses for Jesus.

**Romans 10:9-10** “<sup>9</sup>That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus (that Jesus is Lord) and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

- Our journey with Christ begins by confessing Him as Lord and Savior - then it progresses and continues by continuing to confess Him to others!

**Hebrews 10:38-39** “<sup>38</sup>Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draws back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him. <sup>39</sup>But 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:** *All these many years, God has not denied me!*

**V: 10** Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is 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 to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceeds from the Father, He shall testify of Me.”

Stephen declared just before they killed him:

**Acts 7:51** “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.”

One of the things that the Holy Spirit does is convict us of sin:

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

- As long as we’re still alive we can repent of that; but if we die in that state - we’re done, unforgiven.

**2 Corinthians 6:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that you not receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you and in the day of salvation I have helped you.” 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 remains no more sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup>But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.” (You don’t want to be an adversary!!)

- This blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is different than “grieving the Holy Spirit” which is willful sinful behavior in general, as opposed to that final rejection of the testimony of the Holy Spirit that is sealed by one’s death.

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

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

**2 Timothy 3:12** “<sup>12</sup>Yes, 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.
- Learning and being willing to rely upon the Holy Spirit:

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

**John 14:26** “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, 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. “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears!”

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

- In that culture when the father / patriarch died there were times when the inheritance fell to the eldest son who then became the patriarch and dealt with his siblings as he saw fit. Sometimes it was divided by the father, but sometimes it was not.
- Jesus rebuffs this man and gets right to the issue and warns them about covetousness, of being materialistic.

Later Paul who instruct the church in Phillipi:

**Philippians 2:3** “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

- Sometimes it’s better to just let some things go.

**1 Corinthians 6:1-7** (Turn to:) “<sup>7</sup>Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?”

- Sometimes it’s better for us to be cheated and wronged (die to self) than to drag the name of Jesus through the courts in front of non-believers than to present Christians and the church as children fighting over their toys, it’s a bad witness of Christ.

Better to suffer loss or be wronged than to be a bad witness in front of non-believers.

V: 16-21 This rich man was obviously blessed of God.

**James 1:17** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

- He was blessed with abundance and was trying to figure out what he should do with it, apparently he didn't consider giving any or some of the excess to the poor or to the Temple, or seeking to bless others, 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 has said, I will never leave you, nor forsake you.”

- 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 destroy and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is there your heart will be also.”

- Jesus is saying that if we've been blessed we should be asking God why we've been blessed and what are we supposed to do with it. Taking Him into account.

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 to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which passes 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 You,

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 clothing 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, the non-believers.

**Psalm 20:7** “Some trust in chariots, some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our 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. It's a life guiding principal, an attitude, a commitment.

**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>You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as 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 you'll spend your whole life in pursuit of all those things, and it'll never be enough.
- 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 is passing away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides 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.

**Matthew 25:34** “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, “come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:”

**James 2:5** “Listen, my beloved brethren: has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?”

- 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 “alms.” Give 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, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”

- It’s been said that you can’t take it with you, but you can send it ahead.

- Where our treasure is where our heart is – 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, alert, 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: they all slept and their lamps were going 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.

**1 Thessalonians 5:6** “Therefore let us not sleep, as do others, but let us watch and be sober.” (clear minded)

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 the table that He's 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 in 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, the midnight watch was from 9 PM -12 AM.

3<sup>rd</sup> watch, 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.”

**Titus 2:13** “Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

V: 39-40 Jesus will return like a “thief in the night” – meaning at a time when He’s not expected – so we need to always be ready.

**Matthew 24:36** “But of that day and hour knows 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.
- Rapture vs: 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. Comes for His church vs: comes with His church.
- Rapture first, then 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.
- Jesus described what the end times would look like prior to His coming - we’re seeing all those things set in place, we know that the rapture of His church happens first which means it’s very soon!

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 hears these sayings of mine, and does 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.

**1 Peter 4:10** “As each one has received the gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

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-trib, pre-wrath, 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. We are all accountable for what we know.

**John 15:22** “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.”

- This also indicates that 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 dishonest gain, but of a ready mind; <sup>3</sup>neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup>And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, you shall receive a crown of glory that doesn't fade away.”

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

**2 Peter 3:10** “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

V: 50 I have a mission, a baptism - Jesus speaking of His own death and crucifixion.

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

**Matthew 20:22** “But Jesus answered and said, you don't know what you ask. Are you able to drink of the cup (death) that I shall drink, and to be baptized with the baptism (suffering) that I am baptized with? They said to Him, we are able.”

- “**distressed**”- 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 dishonors father, daughter rises 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 not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion has 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.

**Ephesians 2:19** “Now, therefore, you’re no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” (Family)

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 the spiritual climate you live in, no understanding of heavenly things, or 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.
- They should have been waiting and watching, looking for Messiah - and recognized Him when He appeared. They were held accountable for that.
- 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 exact day or the hour, but certainly the season and the expectation that we will be waiting and watching, eagerly anticipating.

**1 Chronicles 12:32** “of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...”

**V: 58-59** Settle things with God 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.”