

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 23

Luke 12:1-12 records several warnings and encouragements that Jesus issues to the crowds and his disciples. He warns his disciples against the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, which like yeast spreads everywhere. Pretending to be something you are not contaminates others and prevents them from having a true knowledge of you, God and themselves. In short, it deceives.

Jesus, who would build His church upon the foundation of the apostles, did not want His disciples to convey a false sense of piety that would contaminate the gospel of God's grace in Christ. Jesus further warns them not to be afraid of those who kill the body but can do no more than that. Better, Jesus admonishes, to fear Him who, after killing the body, has power to throw one into hell.

After this stern and sobering warning, Jesus begins to encourage His disciples, saying, "I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God" (Luke 12:8-9).

Before beginning this lesson, ask the God of all comfort and grace to give you the strength, courage and boldness to acknowledge Jesus before men, even in the midst of trial and tribulation, for He is able to keep us and will never leave or forsake us.

The Parable of the Rich Fool

1. Read Luke 12:13-21.
 - A. Jesus is interrupted by someone in the crowd. What does he ask Jesus to do?

 - B. From Luke 12:14, what is Jesus' response to the man?

 - C. What warning does Jesus give to those around Him?

 - D. Using a dictionary, define:
 - A. Greed

 - B. Covetousness

 - E. From Luke 12:15, what is Jesus' point?

 - F. How does He illustrate His point?

- G. Read Luke 12:21 and 1 Timothy 6:17-21. State the broad principle that Jesus wants His disciples, the crowd and us to apply in our thoughts, attitude and actions? What is the promised result?

Do Not Worry

2. Read Luke 12:22-34.
- A. Using a dictionary, define “worry.”
- B. What are we prone to worry about?
- C. From Luke 12:23, why are we not to worry?
- D. From Luke 12:24, 27, what does Jesus say we can do that ravens and lilies cannot?

- E. Read Luke 12:25. What does Jesus say we cannot do?
- F. According to Jesus, how does God display His glory in regard to the ravens and the lilies of the field?
- G. Read Genesis 1:26-28, Luke 12:24, Ephesians 1:3-8 and Ephesians 2:8-9. How much value are we to God? Is this because of anything we have done? Please explain.
- H. Read Luke 12:31 and Matthew 6:33. Since life is more than food or drink or clothing, what are we to be seeking?
- I. From Luke 12:31-34, why is this so important? Why does anxiety or worry nullify trust in God?

Not Peace but Division

4. Read Luke 12:49-59.
 - A. What do you think Jesus means when He says, “I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled”?

 - B. What is the baptism Jesus must undergo? Why is He so distressed about it?

 - C. Will peace or division be the result of Jesus’ mission to people? How will this result manifest?

 - D. Has this division been true among your family and/or friends? Please explain. From 1 Corinthians 1:18 and 23-24, what is the cause of this division?

 - E. Knowing that Jesus’ coming often results in division among family and friends, would you still desire a friend or loved one to come to Christ? Why or why not? Explain your answer.

F. From Luke 12:54-59, what does Jesus say about the importance of properly interpreting the times? How does He illustrate His point? Why are we to make every effort to be peacemakers?