

## Luke Twelve

### Luke 12:1-5

Under these circumstances, after so many thousands of the multitude had gathered together that they were stepping on one another, He began saying to His disciples first of all, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. “But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. “Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops. “And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. “But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!

- Earlier chapters of Luke were focused on His Sonship and the ways of the Kingdom. After the Transfiguration, Jesus is headed to Jerusalem. He begins to prepare disciples for opposition.
- Many thousands (murias=10,000)—In Acts 19:19—myriads =50,000
- Stepping on one another—crowded in upon each other
- Hypocrisy=hidden sin—hypocrisy originally meant someone who answers—eventually meant: 'one who is playing a part'—a play actor—one who is wearing a mask.
- A hypocrite is one who adjusts his behavior to the culture surrounding him. There is a discrepancy between what appears, and what is. It is how we act or behave that leads someone to the wrong conclusion.
- The Pharisees, whose movement began during the time of the Maccabees—to keep the nation holy and pure among the nations—had deteriorated from spirituality to legalism. The leaven that destroyed them was hypocrisy.
- Call to fearlessness—the Christian message is not to be hidden—but proclaimed from the rooftops. Proclaiming the gospel boldly will arouse opposition.

- Jesus warns His audience to get their values straight.
- False fear is banished—true fear is to be preserved.
- Opposition of Rome is minor compared to opposition from hell itself.
- When Jesus teaches—we can assume there is some application for his disciples.
- Leaven speaks of a penetration (and multiplication) that is slow, insidious and constant.
- Hell—Gehenna rather than Hades—Hades is a place of departed spirits, while Gehenna carries the idea of punishment. (Gehenna comes from the Hebrew word 'ge Hinnom'—place where Israel had sacrificed children to Molech—I Kings 11:7, Lev 18:21)
- To live hypocritically is short sighted—in the end, all will be seen and known.
- Jesus speaks this to the twelve—all but one will be killed...preparing them for increasing hostility.
- We emphasize the love of God---must also understand the Fear of the Lord.

### **Luke 12:6-9**

“Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? And yet not one of them is forgotten before God. “Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows. “And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man shall confess him also before the angels of God; but he who denies Me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.

- Since God shows such great care over the least—in value—how much more will He care for mankind.
- Jesus can be denied in more than one way (Judas, Peter, Israel—pride and selfishness are forms of denial).

### **Luke 12:10-12**

“And everyone who will speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him. “And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not become anxious about how or what you should speak in your defense, or what you should say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

- Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit—attributing the work of the Holy Spirit to satan—unforgiveable. The reason why it is unforgiveable—the Holy Spirit is given to turn us toward repentance—and we are rejecting the very means for reconciliation with God (so we can repent and believe).
- When we continually fail to acknowledge—we can become blind to the movement of the Holy Spirit.
- One of the names of the Holy Spirit is 'Paraclete'—someone who comes alongside to help us...and invisible Presence that we carry into every situation, and His Presence accomplishes His will, with His power, through us.
- If you say that the Spirit's work is of the devil—you have begun to call evil 'good' and good 'evil'.
- Since it is the work of the Spirit to bring about conviction—we are left without any means to repent.
- Jesus was born of the Spirit—led by the Spirit—returned in the power of the Spirit—offered Himself to God by the Spirit....to attribute work of the Spirit to satan, is to be deceived.

### **Luke 12:13-15**

And someone in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But He said to him, “Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbiter over you?” And He said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against every

form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.”

- It was common in Palestine for people to take their disputes to the Rabbis. (Israel did this with Moses).
- Man in crowd—wanted inheritance divided—source of provision (considered his circumstances with some sense of injustice).
- Jewish laws concerning inheritance covered most cases—Deut 21:17
- Jesus came to restore men to God—not property/possession to man.
- This is a strong warning (beware/take heed) to the affluent (guard yourselves/ take action to ward off a foe).

#### **Luke 12:16-21**

And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a certain rich man was very productive. “And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ “And he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ‘And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.”’ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’ “So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

- Rich man never saw beyond himself—self-centered (He remembered himself, and forgot his neighbors)
- Parable is filled with personal pronouns
- His attitude was opposite of Kingdom values
- He never saw beyond this present world
- Rich man found his security in his many possessions—all his security measures failed to take God into account.

- We tend to see greed as victimless—only about the greedy one—when in fact, it disrupts God's distribution through His abundance.
- In amassing riches, he neglected mercy to the poor ( how we gain treasure in heaven)
- Consider Deut 8:17

### **Luke 12:22-26**

And He said to His disciples, “For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. “For life is more than food, and the body than clothing. “Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; and they have no storeroom nor barn; and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! “And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his life’s span? “If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why are you anxious about other matters?

- From the sin of greed, and the selfishness of the rich, Jesus turns His attention toward sins of the poor—anxiety and fear. Greed can never get enough and worry is fear that you will never have enough. He gives instruction for overcoming fear and anxiety.
- Life is more than food—stance that Jesus took with the devil in Luke 4
- We are to be diligent—yet reliant—not sluggards with presumption.
- As Christians, we will have needs—we are not to become distracted or become anxious.
- Life is more than food—should our body starve—we still have 'life'.

### **Luke 12:27-30**

“Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these. “But if God so arrays the

grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you, O men of little faith! “And do not seek what you shall eat, and what you shall drink, and do not keep worrying. “For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things.

- Told twice—consider
- They neither sow/reap/harvest/keep and yet God cares for them
- We are not told to take 'no thought'—but to take no 'anxious thought'.
- Our provision should not consume our thinking
- Men of little faith—disciples must have become anxious on their journey toward Jerusalem.
- Lilies—temporary/short-lived (probably scarlet anemone)
- He who knows your need—is the source of your supply.

#### **Luke 12:31-34**

“But seek for His kingdom, and these things shall be added to you. “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. “Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves purses which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near, nor moth destroys. “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

- Seek for His Kingdom—where His wisdom governs—His power sustains—His love surrounds.
- His Kingdom—a state on earth in which God's will is as perfectly done as it is in heaven.
- Little flock—this identifies His relationship with them—He is their Shepherd.
- Little flock—indicates small number of true disciples—God is gifting these with His Kingdom.
- Jesus is not ruling out private possessions—but believers are not to be under the control of their possessions.

- Treasure in heaven—God's sphere of created reality—bringing the values and priorities of God to bear on greed / anxiety of this world.
- True investment is for sake of others—and not self alone.

### **Luke 12:35-40**

“Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps alight. “And be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks. “Blessed are those slaves whom the master shall find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them. “Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. “And be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into. “You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.”

- Dressed in readiness—condition of Israel at time of Exodus from Egypt.
- Speaks of both the return of Christ and the end of our earthly sojourn.
- We would like Him to find us with our work completed.
- God's Kingdom now demands a complete re-ordering of priorities.
- Whatever others do or do not do—you must be ready.
- Gird up=prepared to take action—long robe tucked in belt at waist allows for activity.
- The Master who is pleased—reverses roles with servant—serving him.

### **Luke 12:41-48**

And Peter said, “Lord, are You addressing this parable to us, or to everyone else as well?” And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time? “Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. “Truly I say to

you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. “But if that slave says in his heart, ‘My master will be a long time in coming,’ and begins to beat the slaves, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk; the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him, and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers. “And that slave who knew his master’s will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, shall receive many lashes, but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. And from everyone who has been given much shall much be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

- When Jesus answers Peter—Israel could be servant who knows what his Master wants—because they are not ready. Israel will be cut in pieces (dispersed) and assigned a place with the unbelieving Gentiles.
- Israel must realize the arrival of Her Master—and ready herself.
- John 17:4—Jesus glorified the Father on earth by accomplishing the work He was given to do.
- In the middle east—the steward had almost unlimited power—he was a slave—but oversaw the other slaves and the estate of his Master.
- The unwise steward made two mistakes: 1) I will do what I like while the Master is away (we tend to divide life into compartments) 2) I have plenty of time to please the Master before he comes.
- The Master would like to find us at peace with one another
- This is a call to mature spiritual leadership—not using the ways of man to control.
- There is punishment for those who fail their duty.

### **Luke 12:49-53**

“I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled! “But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished! “Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division; for

from now on five members in one household will be divided, three against two, and two against three. “They will be divided, father against son, and son against father; mother against daughter, and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

- Jesus was passionate about fulfilling His purpose
- In Jewish thought—fire is symbolic of judgment
- Jesus regarded the coming of the Kingdom as a time of judgment
- Prophesying-- that He has a terrible experience through which He must pass
- Loyalty to Christ takes precedence to every other earthly relationship.
- Jesus looks forward to this fire being kindled.
- God's salvation involves punishment—He is looking forward to bearing it for us—that He might bear us before God.

#### **Luke 12:54-59**

And He was also saying to the multitudes, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘A shower is coming,’ and so it turns out. “And when you see a south wind blowing, you say, ‘It will be a hot day,’ and it turns out that way. “You hypocrites! You know how to analyze the appearance of the earth and the sky, but why do you not analyze this present time? “And why do you not even on your own initiative judge what is right? “For while you are going with your opponent to appear before the magistrate, on your way there make an effort to settle with him, in order that he may not drag you before the judge, and the judge turn you over to the constable, and the constable throw you into prison. “I say to you, you shall not get out of there until you have paid the very last cent.”

- Discernment –not for just national situations/circumstances
- They only understood the superficial—not the actual meaning of things.

# Luke Chapter Twelve Workbook

## Key Words:

## Harmonize:

Read Colossians 3:5. Why is greed associated with idolatry?

## Dig:

- 1) Describe the audience in this chapter. Is there ever a question about who He is addressing?
- 2) What sin is unforgiveable? Why?
- 3) What or whom should you fear? What should you not fear or become anxious about?
- 4) In verse 21, what does it mean to be "rich toward God"?
- 5) What names are used for God in this chapter?
- 6) What instructions are given concerning provision in chapter 12?
- 7) What 'baptism' is Jesus describing in verse 50?
- 8) List 3 insignificant things that God says He is aware of?

- 9) What role do angels have in this chapter?
  
- 10) What wrong conclusions are drawn by the man in the parable—in Luke 12:16-21?
  
- 11) What does the Lord indicate that He values in this chapter?

**Discuss:**

- 1) How does leaven operate? Why is it like hypocrisy?
  
- 2) What happens when greed becomes the mindset of a people?
  
- 3) Why does the Church treat gluttony and greed different than other sins?
  
- 4) What do we learn to repent from and to repent to in Luke 12:16-21?
  
- 5) When is someone 'rich toward God' (vs 21)?
  
- 6) How do you learn to 'Seek for His Kingdom' (vs 31)?
  
- 7) What verse in this chapter is most surprising—or the hardest to understand?

**Point of Prayer:**

Pray for someone in your family who is opposed to Christ. Are you aware of the nature of the offense they have with Him?

**Integrate:**

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

**Application:**

- 1) Are you good at keeping a secret?
  
- 2) Has it ever been a burden to keep a secret?
  
- 3) Share an incident where the Holy Spirit gave you instruction on what you should say.
  
- 4) When are you most likely to experience anxiety? Fear? Worry? Are these words different or do they mean the same thing?
  
- 5) Where do you have 'wealth' that money cannot buy?
  
- 6) If you knew the Lord would return this week—what three things would you be sure to do?
  
- 7) Is there something in your life that you are watching or waiting for? What makes this difficult?
  
- 8) Are you aware of the stewardship entrusted to you? How has it changed this year?
  
- 9) Is there any place where you have been called to obey the Lord—and have delayed doing so? (vs 12:47-48)
  
- 10) Have you experienced greater peace in your family because of Jesus or greater division?