

# Luke 12

## General review:

- Who was Luke?** A Gentile (*Col. 4.10-14*)
- The purpose of the Third Gospel?** To explain the gospel to the Gentiles
- What does Luke emphasize?** Women, children, poor people, the problems of being rich
- What was his professional background?** A medical doctor
- What books in the New Testament did Luke write?** *Gospel of Luke* and *Acts*

## Luke 12.1-12

**V1 – Result of the questions of the Pharisees?** The multitudes wanted to see and hear Jesus more and more

- What was the worst sin of the Pharisees?** Their hypocrisy
- Define hypocrisy:** Pretending to be what a person is not

**V2 – Was hypocrisy satisfactory with Christ?** Absolutely not – everything will be revealed

- Abraham Lincoln: You can fool some of the people all the time....

**V3 – Secret words will be made public**

- Today, many politicians have been caught taking bribes by hidden cameras that they did not know about
- Likewise, the secret "deals" of the Pharisees would be revealed
- There are probably secret deals going on right now in our state capitols and in Washington, D.C., that will be made public at some point in the future

**V4 – Jesus is still talking to his friends (disciples)**

- Can the body be killed?** Yes, when the body can no longer function, the soul leaves it
- Where does the Bible give a definition of death?** **Read James 2.26**
- Can people kill our souls?** No
- Are we to fear those who can kill our bodies?** No
- Rev. 2.10* – We are to be faithful until death

**V5 – Who are we to fear?** God

- Why?** Because he has the authority to send the soul to eternal destruction

**V6 – Are faithful Christians to be totally terrified of God?** No, he loves us and is concerned for us

- What kind of bird is the sparrow?** Worthless, almost without any value
- But what is God's attitude toward sparrows?** He remembers them and cares for them

**V7 – Nothing is too small or insignificant for God to take notice of**

- The least of all God's creatures are still precious, as well as the greatest of his creatures
- "Do not fear" – **The meaning?** Do not live in total terror of God

**V8-9 – We must be willing to confess (state) our belief in Christ**

- Is it possible to believe and not confess?** Yes – **Read John 9.22, 12.42**
- The time had come for the disciples to make a stand – to either confess Jesus or to deny him
- What if we confess Jesus?** He will confess us and claim us as his own brothers and sisters

**V 10-12** – The unpardonable sin (speaking against the Holy Spirit)

-**Had the Pharisees spoken against the Holy Spirit?** Yes – they had seen the miracles of Jesus, but they discounted them and had said that they were from Satan

-**What is the unpardonable sin today?** We may reach such a hardened state today where we are no longer able to turn our lives around

-The word of the Holy Spirit will fall on us, but we are no longer able to repent and change our lives

-The word of the Holy Spirit is all we have to go by today

-When we reject the Word, there is no more hope

**V 11** – **How would his disciples know how to respond to persecution?** The Holy Spirit would help them

-They were not to have anxiety and fear

-**Where is the fulfillment of these words of Christ?** *Acts 4.8*

**V 12** – **What was the purpose of v 1-12?** To encourage the disciples and to let them know that the Pharisees would be punished for their unbelief

**Luke 12.13-21** – The Parable of the Rich Fool

**V 13** – *Deut. 21.17* – The oldest son would receive a double portion of the inheritance

-**Notice:** A deep section, but apparently it had no effect on this man

-He blurts out his request

-**What type of person was he?** Apparently very materialistic

-It sounds like our children fighting

**V 14** – Jesus did not want to become an umpire and have all kinds of family problems brought to him for a settlement

-**Why not?** His mission was to establish the gospel, the principles of life

-So he had to stay out of family arguments

-**Note:** Family fights can be vicious, especially over inheritances, and usually no-one really wins

**V 15** – **Which brother was greedy?** Probably both

-Life does not boil down to what we own

-Our entire life savings can be wiped out by the government just changing the currency

**V 16-17** – **Why did he reason "to himself"?** Probably very few friends

-**How much money did he have?** So much that he didn't know what to do with it

**V 18** – **How many times is "I" (or some form of it) used in this passage?** 6 times

-**His solution?** To build bigger barns

**V 19** – **The message he gave to his soul?** Just take it easy

**V 20** – "You fool" – **Was he an adulterer?** No

-**A murderer?** No

-**A drunkard?** No

**-A criminal?** No

-He just loved money, and Christ called him a fool for just for proposing to build a few new barns

-Most people would consider that "progress," not covetousness

-There is nothing sinful about being rich; we are to use our talents

-In fact, if we don't work, we are not supposed to get to eat – See *1-2 Thessalonians*

-The wealthiest Christian man that the writer of these notes ever knew was brother A. M. Burton, of Nashville, Tennessee

-He founded the Life and Casualty Insurance Company and built the first skyscraper in Nashville

-And he gave away millions of dollars to the mission works of the church

-He always said that he wanted to die a poor man, and his wish was granted – but look at the good that he did with his money (David Lipscomb University, Nashville Christian Institute, many foreign missions)

-See the biographical sketch of brother Burton in the file after *Luke 12* in this series of class notes.

**V 21** – What a remarkable verse!

-Let us all be rich toward God

**-How are we able to be rich toward God?** By using our money as tools for evangelism (other answers are also possible)

Two misunderstandings concerning this parable:

1. Looking on riches as being evil

2. Lay back and not working at all, out of fear of lusting after money

## **Luke 13.22-34**

**V 22** – We are not to worry about material needs

**V 23** – **Life is more than what?** Food and clothing

-With some people, life equals clothing (designer jeans, the latest styles, etc.)

**V 24** – **Does God take care of the birds?** Yes

**-How?** Vegetation for nests, worms for food, feathers for clothing, and on cold winter days God puts the thought into our heads that we need to feed the birds!

**V 25-26** – **What problems can be solved by worry?** None

**-Do we get taller if we worry about our height?** No

**V 27-28** – **How did Jesus describe the lilies?** Beautiful

**-God clothes the grass, so what is the lesson?** He will clothe us also

**V 29-30** – People outside the kingdom constantly worry about all these things

**V 31** – **What does he encourage (command) us to do?** Put his kingdom first

**V 32** – **"Little flock" indicates what?** It is a term of endearment and love

-The sheep are defenseless, but the shepherd protects his flock

**V 33** – **How are we to regard our possessions?** As God's, not ours

**-What kind of purses are we to have?** Ones which do not wear out

- How many women here have worn out their purses?
- How many men here have worn out their billfolds and wallets?

**V 34** – Where is our treasure to be? In heaven

## **Luke 12.35-40**

**V 35** – What are we to be "ready" for? The second coming of Christ

- What will we see if we visit a fire station? Everything is ready – the boots are laid out in order, the coats are hanging up and ready to be put on, the fire engine is full of gas and ready to leave for a fire
- Everything is in a state of readiness
- Is there a parable about keeping the lamps lit? The parable of the 10 virgins

**V 36** – What illustration does Jesus give at this point? If the master of the house is away, the workers at the house are always in readiness for his return  
 -Right now we are living between the ascension and the second coming of Christ

**V 37** – What will Jesus do to those servants he find watching? He will serve them  
 -What does this indicate? Rich blessings await us if we are faithful until death  
 -Remember Jesus washing the feet of the 12 apostles

**V 38** – According to brother Boles, the Romans had four watches during the night  
 -Jesus would come in the middle of the night  
 -Explanation? No-one will know when he will return  
 -Many have tried to set the date for the second coming of Christ, but they have all missed it

**V 39** – Why watch? To keep the robbers out

**V 40** – The application? We are to be ready at all times  
 -We should live our lives with this idea: If the Lord returned this moment, would I want to be caught in this activity? That is a very sobering and serious thought

## **Luke 12.41-48**

**V 41** – A little confusion on the part of Peter

- Was this parable addressed to the disciples or to everyone? Really for everyone (implied)

**V 42** – Notice that Jesus did not give a direct answer to Peter's question

- Jesus rephrases the question
- The answer? The parable was specifically addressed to the twelve apostles and the leaders in the church, although the application is to all believers
- There is much symbolism in v 42

**V 43-44** – Who will be rewarded at the second coming? The watchful slave

**V 45** – How did the unworthy slave act? He beat the other slaves, ate, drank, and got drunk

**V 46** – Note the suddenness of the return of Christ  
-**When will he return?** "At an hour no-one knows"  
-**The punishment?** Cut to pieces, put with unbelievers

**V 47** – **Who will receive many lashes?** The servant who knew the will of God

**V 48** – **What about slaves ignorant of the master's will?** Few lashes  
-**Principle for the Day of Judgment?** Judgment will be based on our opportunities and talents and how we used them  
-Remember the Parable of the Talents  
-**Was the two talent man expected to earn 5 more talents with it?** No, 2 talents

## **Luke 12.49-53**

**V 49** – **What does the "fire" represent?** Conflict caused by the gospel  
-**What does the fire do?** Destroys combustible material and refines non-combustible material  
-**In what sense is the gospel like fire?** It does the same thing  
-**Had the fire been started yet?** No  
-**When would it be started?** Shortly (remember that the kingdom had not yet been established at this point)

**V 50** – **What is "baptism" reference to here?** The crucifixion  
-He knew that the crucifixion would be terrible; he would be relieved when it was over  
-**In what sense could the crucifixion be called a "baptism"?** An "immersion" in pain and suffering

**V 51** – **What would be a consequence of the gospel?** A division among people

**V 52** – **In what sense would there be divisions within families?** One member would accept the gospel, and another would reject it  
-**Do we have this going on today?** Yes, absolutely – every congregation has examples of that

**V 53** – We should not be surprised to see such terrible divisions in family today

## **Luke 12.54-59**

**V 54** – People claimed to be able to predict the weather  
-**Did Jesus refute those claims?** No, he just mentioned them

**V 55** – More ways of predicting the weather

**V 56** – **Where have we seen Jesus use the word "hypocrite" earlier?** *V 1* of this chapter  
-He was probably now addressing them here again  
-**Why were they hypocrites?** They could analyze the weather but not that the Messiah had arrived

**V 57** – **What kind of "wisdom" did they have?** Very superficial

**V 58-59 – Who was the judge? God**

-The Jewish nation was guilty

-They ought to settle with Jesus before the Day of Judgment

We are now half-way through the book of *Luke* – Any comments about Luke and this gospel message?

Revised 2012-12-31