

The Gospel of Luke

a verse-by-verse study

Session 22

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



Simply teaching the Bible, simply

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CHAPTER 12

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Simply teaching the Bible, simply

¹ In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

² For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.

Luke 12:1-2

- ‘innumerable multitude’ Gr. ‘Myriads’ = 10,000
- They had been drawn by the miracles that had confirmed His Word, and given evidence that He was the Messiah
- The primary purpose of the miracles was to destroy the works of the Devil – **1 John 3:8**

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Luke 12:1-2

- The Pharisees would not listen...
- The multitude were easily led...
- It is to the disciples the Jesus imparts heavenly wisdom

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Luke 12:1-2

- ... 'Beware of the teaching of the Pharisees'
- *"beware of these Pharisees and the way they pretend to be good when they aren't. But such hypocrisy cannot be hidden forever". TLB*
- All false teaching will one day be exposed, and then where will the false teachers be! (cf Jeremiah 25:34-37)

³ Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

Luke 12:3

- This is a great comfort to the godly...
- ...but a great concern to the ungodly!
- All the we have stood for, defended as the truth, been ridiculed for believing, will one day be upheld in the highest court of all
- *“Remove from me reproach and contempt....”* Ps119:22
- *“Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good”* Ps119:39
- *The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.* 1 Samuel 24:15

4 And I say unto you **my friends**, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him. **Luke 12:4-5**

- *“I have called you friends”* John 15:15
- This is a challenge to the modern mindset within the church (a hangover from dominion theology) that gets very concerned with the state of the world and where it is heading!
- We should expect it to get worse!
- It is cause for celebration and time to lift up our heads!
- *“If you fear God, you’ll fear nothing else”* OC

6 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Luke 12:6-7

- As His friends, He has undertaken to care for us
- Do we trust Him?
- Consider Job's sublime utterance of faith:
 - *"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him"* - **Job 13:15**
- How many needless 'problems' do we bear because we fear man instead of trusting God?

The Fruit of Faith

Rezin, king of Syria, and Pekah, king of the ten northern tribes of Israel, formed an alliance and planned an attack against Judah, the two southern tribes. The Lord told Isaiah to speak to Ahaz, king of Judah, who was fearful and upset about the upcoming battle.

“Your response to the promise of God will have no effect on the outcome of the battle” Isaiah told Ahaz, *“for God has already determined that Israel and Syria will be unsuccessful. However, your response to God’s promise will have a great effect upon you, for if you don’t believe God, you won’t be established. You’ll be unstable. You’ll be emotional. You’ll cave in.”*

The Fruit of Faith

But what if we don't take Him at His Word?

We will live a life of instability, inconsistency, and anxiety – totally needlessly.

“But what if I'm misunderstanding the promises?” you ask. “What if I'm misreading the Bible? What if I'm misinterpreting the context? So often I come across a promise and I believe it's for me, but what if it's not?”

God's promise to Ahaz was a sign – Immanuel – God with us!

God still says the same to the Ahaz in you and me, “I am Immanuel. I am the ultimate source of stability.”

The Fruit of Faith

You see, I might question if I understood the Scriptures properly. I might wonder if what I'm reading is applicable to me personally. I might doubt if I interpret the theology correctly. But the Lord says to me, "Know this: even if you're not sure if the promises apply to you, I, Immanuel, am with you"

Jon Courson – A Day's Journey

8 Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

9 But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.

Luke 12:8-9

- A martyr is not someone who dies for Christ, but someone who lives for Him!

¹⁰ And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.

Luke 12:10

- 'The unpardonable sin' - blasphemy against the Holy Ghost
- cf Rom 10:9-10 'believing in the heart and confessing with the mouth'
- It is not just a casual / flippant remark, nor a thought in our hearts, it is the whole being united in rejecting the witness of the Holy Ghost

11 And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say:

12 For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

Luke 12:11-12

- Consider how great a companion the Holy Ghost really is!
- He will not leave you or forsake you – **John 14:16**

13 And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Luke 12:13-15

- Jesus here presents the 'other' way of living
- It is either to walk by faith, walk in the Spirit, walk trusting God...
- Or, it is to live striving to have everything you 'need'

16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

Luke 12:16-19

20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Luke 12:20-21

- Jesus again presents the chose we each have:
- It is either to walk by faith, walk in the Spirit, walk trusting God...
- Or, it is to live striving to have everything you 'need'

22 And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

23 The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.

24 Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

Luke 12:22-24

25 And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?

26 If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?

27 Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

28 If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Luke 12:25-28

Do You Trust Him?

- “If God so clothe the grass of the field...shall He not much more clothe you?”
- A simple statement of Jesus is always a puzzle to us if we are not simple. How are we going to be simple with the simplicity of Jesus? By receiving His Spirit, recognizing and relying on Him, obeying Him as He brings the word of God, and life will become amazingly simple.
- “Consider,” says Jesus, “how much more your Father Who clothes the grass of the field will clothe you, if you keep your relationship right with Him.”

Do You Trust Him?

- Every time we have gone back in spiritual communion it has been because we have impertinently known better than Jesus Christ.
- We have allowed the cares of the world to come in, and have forgotten the “much more” of our Heavenly Father.
- “Behold the fowls of the air” — their main aim is to obey the principle of life that is in them and God looks after them. Jesus says that if you are rightly related to Him and obey His Spirit that is in you, God will look after your “feathers.”

Do You Trust Him?

- “Consider the lilies of the field” — they grow where they are put. Many of us refuse to grow where we are put, consequently we take root nowhere. Jesus says that if we obey the life God has given us, He will look after all the other things.
- Has Jesus Christ told us a lie? If we are not experiencing the “much more,” it is because we are not obeying the life God has given us, we are taken up with confusing considerations.
- How much time have we taken up worrying God with questions when we should have been absolutely free to concentrate on His work

Take no thought...

- “Take no thought for your life.” “Be careful about one thing only,” says our Lord — “your relationship to Me.” Common sense shouts loud and says — “That is absurd, I must consider how I am going to live, I must consider what I am going to eat and drink.” Jesus says you must not. Beware of allowing the thought that this statement is made by One Who does not understand our particular circumstances. Jesus Christ knows our circumstances better than we do, and He says we must not think about these things so as to make them the one concern of our life. Whenever there is competition, be sure that you put your relationship to God first. - Oswald Chambers

29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luke 12:29-31

- Jesus again presents the chose we each have:
- It is either to walk by faith, walk in the Spirit, walk trusting God...
- Or, it is to live striving to have everything you 'need'
- God His own to be different!

32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Luke 12:32-34

- Consider what awaits us!
- Is the present suffering so bad considering the blessings we have in store?

Our Hope!

- *“What does it matter if we are mistreated in the smoky inns of this miserable life? We are not to stay here, and we will be dearly welcomed by Him to whom we go”.*
- *“Why should I be surprised at the plough that makes such deep furrows in my soul? Whatever direction the wind blows, it will blow us to the Lord. His hand will direct us safely to the heavenly shore to find the weight of eternal glory. As we look back to our pains and suffering, we shall see that suffering is not worthy to be compared to our first night's welcome home in heaven”.*

Samuel Rutherford (1600-1661)

Look to that which Awaits!

- *“I wonder many times that ever a child of God should have a sad heart, considering what their Lord is preparing for them”.*
- *“Go up before hand and see your lodging. Look through all your Father’s rooms in Heaven; in your Father's house are many dwelling-places. Men take a sight of lands before they buy them. I know that Christ has made the bargain already: but be kind to the house you are going, and see it often.”*

Samuel Rutherford (1600-1661)

Neither be thou envious

“Queen Elizabeth I envied the milk maid when she was in prison; but if she had known what a glorious reign she should have had afterwards for 44 years, she would not have envied her. And as little needeth a godly man, though in misery, to envy a wicked man in the ruff of all his prosperity and jollity, considering what he hath in hand, much more what he hath in hope”.

– John Trapp

35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

Luke 12:35-36

- We need to live like Heaven is a real place!

Heaven is a Real Place!

Oh, for the eyes to see beyond this flesh and bone
To my final destination, to the city I'll call home
Well, it's crazy to pretend and try to act like I'm one of the local boys
Everybody knows that I'm really just a tourist
Not by accident but by my own choice
Still, so much of the time I live like this spinning ball of land and
ocean is my reality complete
Would you say a prayer for a change in me?
'Cause this is what I want, this is what I need

I wanna live like heaven is a real place
I wanna live like heaven is a real place
In my everyday time and space
I wanna live like heaven is a real place

Heaven is a Real Place!

God didn't give up on the idea of Eden

As some misguided have assumed

The garden has given place to a city where the walk of God with man will be resumed - Paradise is not lost at all

Let my whole life reflect my belief that heaven is where I'll spend eternity

That would be something, something to see "Til death is swallowed up in victory!"

I wanna live like heaven is a real place

I wanna live like heaven is a real place

In my everyday time and space I wanna live like heaven is a real place

- Charlie Peacock

37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

Luke 12:37-38

39 And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.

40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

Luke 12:39-40

41 Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?

42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

43 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

44 Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

Luke 12:41-44

45 But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;

46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

Luke 12:45-46

47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Luke 12:47-48

49 I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?

50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

51 Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:

Luke 12:49-51

52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.

53 The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Luke 12:52-53

54 And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is.

55 And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass.

56 Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?

Luke 12:54-56

57 Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right?

58 When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, as thou art in the way, give diligence that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and the officer cast thee into prison.

59 I tell thee, thou shalt not depart thence, till thou hast paid the very last mite.

Luke 12:57-59

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To be continued...

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