CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Luke Chapter 12 —

Warnings, Watchfulness, and the Cost of Discipleship

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Luke Chapter 12 is full of warnings and encouragement for disciples.

Thousands crowd around Jesus, but He speaks first to His followers.

He warns them about hypocrisy and tells them to fear God rather than people.

He reminds them that God knows even the number of hairs on their heads.

When a man asks for help with an inheritance, Jesus tells the story of a rich fool who stored up wealth but was not rich toward God.

He teaches His disciples not to worry, but to seek God's kingdom.

He calls them to be ready, like servants waiting for their master to return.

He warns that following Him will bring division, and He urges people to read the times and make peace with God while there is still time.

The chapter moves through nine movements:

- Beware of Hypocrisy (verses 1–3).
- Fear God, Not Man (verses 4–7).
- Confessing Christ Before Men (verses 8–12).
- The Parable of the Rich Fool (verses 13–21).
- Do Not Worry (verses 22–34).
- Watchfulness and Faithful Stewardship (verses 35–48).
- Jesus Brings Fire and Division (verses 49–53).
- Interpreting the Times (verses 54–56).
- Settle Matters Quickly (verses 57–59).

The central truth of Luke 12 is:

Followers of Jesus live honestly before God, fear Him instead of people, trust His care instead of worrying or hoarding, and stay faithful and ready for the Lord's return, knowing that loyalty to Christ may cost them but His kingdom is worth everything.

I. THE YEAST OF THE PHARISEES

Luke 12:1 — Hypocrisy

“Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to His disciples: “Be on guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”

“A crowd of many thousands.”

Huge popularity.

“Jesus began to speak first to His disciples.”

In the middle of the crowd, He focused on His followers.

“The yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”

Yeast spreads quietly through dough.

Hypocrisy spreads the same way.

Jesus warned His own disciples, not just others.

Cross References

Matthew 16:6

> Jesus told them, “Be careful! Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

Mark 8:15

> Jesus warned them, “Be careful! Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod.”

1 Corinthians 5:6

> Your boasting is wrong. You know that just a pinch of yeast spreads through all the dough.

Spiritual Principle

Hypocrisy spreads quietly and must be guarded against.

Spiritual Warning

Jesus' own followers must guard against hypocrisy.

II. NOTHING CONCEALED

Luke 12:2 — Made Known

“There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.”

Hypocrisy is foolish.

Nothing stays hidden forever.

God will bring everything into the open.

Live now as if everything were already known.

Cross References

Matthew 10:26

> Everything covered up now will one day be uncovered, and every secret will be found out.

Mark 4:22

> Whatever is kept out of sight is meant to come into view.

1 Corinthians 4:5

> When the Lord comes, He will shine a light on what is now hidden and reveal the real motives of every heart.

Spiritual Principle

Every secret will one day be revealed.

Key Truth

Live with nothing to hide.

III. FROM THE HOUSETOPS

Luke 12:3 — Heard in the Daylight

“What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed from the housetops.””

“What you have said in the dark.”

Private words.

“Will be heard in the daylight.”

“Proclaimed from the housetops.”

Flat rooftops were used for public announcements.

Our words matter.

God hears every one.

Cross References

Matthew 10:27

> Repeat in broad daylight what I tell you at night, and announce from the rooftops what I say quietly to you.

Ecclesiastes 12:14

> God will call every act into judgment, even the hidden ones, good or evil.

1 Corinthians 4:5

> He will expose what is hidden in darkness and make known what people's hearts intended.

Spiritual Principle

God hears every word, spoken or whispered.

Application

Would you be comfortable if your private words were announced publicly?

IV. DO NOT FEAR THOSE WHO KILL THE BODY

Luke 12:4 — My Friends

““I tell you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more.”

“My friends.”

A tender word.

Jesus calls His followers friends.

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body.”

People can harm the body.

“And after that can do no more.”

They cannot touch the soul.

Their power has limits.

Cross References

Matthew 10:28

> Do not be frightened by people who can take your physical life but have no power over your soul.

Isaiah 51:12

> I am the One who comforts you. Why should you be afraid of mere mortals, who wither like grass?

John 15:14

> You are My friends if you keep doing what I tell you.

Spiritual Principle

Human power over us is limited.

Key Truth

The worst people can do is not the worst that can happen.

V. FEAR HIM

Luke 12:5 — Authority to Throw into Hell

“But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear Him.”

“Fear Him.”

God.

This is holy fear: deep reverence and respect.

“Who… has authority to throw you into hell.”

God alone holds eternal destiny.

The fear of God frees us from the fear of people.

Cross References

Matthew 10:28

The One to fear is God, who has power to destroy body and soul together in hell.

Hebrews 10:31

Falling into the hands of the living God is a fearful thing.

James 4:12

Only One gives the law and judges, and He alone has power both to rescue and to destroy.

Spiritual Principle

Reverent fear of God frees us from the fear of people.

Key Truth

God alone holds eternal destiny.

VI. FIVE SPARROWS

Luke 12:6 — Not Forgotten

“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.”

“Five sparrows sold for two pennies.”

Matthew says two for a penny.

Buy four, and the fifth was thrown in free.

“Not one of them is forgotten by God.”

Not even the extra one.

God remembers the smallest creature.

Cross References

Matthew 10:29

> Two sparrows cost only a penny, yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father knowing.

Psalm 50:11

> I know every bird in the mountains, and every creature in the field belongs to Me.

Matthew 6:26

> Think about the birds. They never plant seeds, gather crops, or fill barns, and still your Father in heaven gives them food.

Spiritual Principle

God does not forget even the least.

Key Truth

If God remembers the extra sparrow, He remembers you.

VII. THE HAIRS OF YOUR HEAD

Luke 12:7 — Worth More Than Sparrows

“Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.””

“The very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

God knows you in detail.

“Don't be afraid.”

“You are worth more than many sparrows.”

Fear God, and then you do not need to fear anything else.

The God we fear is the God who cares for us.

Cross References

Matthew 10:30

God has even counted every hair on your head.

Matthew 10:31

So stop being afraid. You matter to God much more than a whole flock of sparrows.

1 Samuel 14:45

As surely as the Lord lives, not one hair of Jonathan's head will fall to the ground.

Spiritual Principle

God knows and values each of His children.

Key Truth

The God who counts our hairs will care for our lives.

VIII. ACKNOWLEDGE ME

Luke 12:8 — Before the Angels of God

““I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges Me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God.”

“Whoever publicly acknowledges Me before others.”

Openly confessing Jesus.

“The Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God.”

Jesus will say, “This one is Mine.”

What a promise.

Cross References

Matthew 10:32

Whoever tells others that he belongs to Me, I will tell My Father in heaven that he belongs to Me.

Revelation 3:5

> I will never erase their names from the book of life, but I will speak their names before My Father and His angels.

2 Timothy 2:12

> If we keep going, we will rule with Him.

Spiritual Principle

Those who confess Christ will be confessed by Him.

Key Truth

Jesus will not be ashamed of those who are not ashamed of Him.

IX. DISOWNED

Luke 12:9 — Before the Angels

“But whoever disowns Me before others will be disowned before the angels of God.”

“Whoever disowns Me.”

A settled rejection of Jesus.

“Will be disowned before the angels of God.”

A serious warning.

Peter denied Jesus three times, yet he repented and was restored.

Failure followed by repentance is not the same as final rejection.

Cross References

Matthew 10:33

> But whoever says before others that he does not know Me, I will say before My Father that I do not know him.

Mark 8:38

> If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when He comes in glory.

2 Timothy 2:12

> If we say we are not His, He will say we are not His.

Spiritual Principle

Final rejection of Christ has eternal consequences.

Key Truth

Like Peter, those who fail can repent and be restored.

X. AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

Luke 12:10 — Will Not Be Forgiven

“Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.”

“Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven.”

Many who once rejected Jesus later believed.

“Anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.”

Bible students explain this in different ways.

Most agree it describes a settled, hardened refusal of the Spirit's witness to Jesus, calling God's work evil and refusing to repent.

Such a person does not want forgiveness.

Anyone who is worried that they have committed this sin shows by that very worry that their heart is not hardened.

God's forgiveness is open to all who come to Him.

Cross References

Matthew 12:31

> Every sin and evil word people say can be forgiven, but speaking against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

Mark 3:29

> Whoever speaks evil against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. That person is guilty of a sin that lasts forever.

1 John 5:16

> There is a sin that leads to death. I am not telling you to pray about that one.

Spiritual Principle

Persistent hardness against the Spirit's witness shuts out forgiveness.

Key Truth

Anyone who comes to God in repentance will be forgiven.

XI. DO NOT WORRY WHAT TO SAY

Luke 12:11 — Before Rulers

“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers, and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say,”

“When you are brought before.”

Not if.

Persecution would come.

“Do not worry.”

Jesus would not leave them alone.

Cross References

Matthew 10:19

> When you are arrested, do not be anxious about how to answer or what words to use. At that moment you will be given what to say.

Mark 13:11

> When you are arrested and put on trial, do not worry ahead of time about what to say.

Luke 21:14

Make up your minds not to prepare your defense ahead of time.

Spiritual Principle

God helps His people when they are tested.

Key Truth

You will not stand alone.

XII. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL TEACH YOU

Luke 12:12 — At That Time

“for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.””

The Holy Spirit would give them words.

The book of Acts shows this happening.

Peter, filled with the Spirit, spoke boldly before the rulers.

This is not an excuse to avoid studying God's Word.

It is a promise of help in times of pressure.

Cross References

Matthew 10:20

It will not really be you speaking. The Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.

Mark 13:11

Say whatever is given to you at that time, because it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

Acts 4:8

Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, answered them: “Leaders and elders of the people.”

Spiritual Principle

The Holy Spirit helps us speak for Christ.

Key Truth

God supplies the words when we need them.

XIII. DIVIDE THE INHERITANCE

Luke 12:13 — A Request

“Someone in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.””

Jesus had been speaking about eternal things.

This man was thinking about money.

Family conflict over inheritance is old and painful.

He wanted Jesus to take his side.

Cross References

Exodus 2:14

> The man said, “Who made you our ruler and judge?”

Genesis 13:8

> Abram told Lot, “We are family. You and I should not fight, and neither should our herdsmen.”

Numbers 27:1

> The daughters of Zelophehad came forward. They were from the tribe of Manasseh.

Spiritual Principle

Money can distract from eternal things.

Key Truth

Many come to Jesus wanting help with things rather than wanting Him.

XIV. WHO APPOINTED ME?

Luke 12:14 — A Judge or an Arbiter

“Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed Me a judge or an arbiter between you?””

Jesus refused to settle the dispute.

He had not come to divide property.

He had come to deal with hearts.

The real problem was not the inheritance.

It was greed.

Cross References

Exodus 2:14

> Who put you in charge to judge between us?

John 18:36

> Jesus replied, “The kingdom I rule does not come from this world.”

Acts 7:27

> The man pushed Moses aside and said, “Who made you our ruler and judge?”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus looks past our requests to our hearts.

Key Truth

Jesus came to change hearts, not to settle every dispute.

XV. GUARD AGAINST GREED

Luke 12:15 — Life Is Not Possessions

“Then He said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.””

“Watch out!”

“Be on your guard against all kinds of greed.”

Greed comes in many forms.

Wanting more.

Never being satisfied.

“Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

Your life is not your stuff.

Cross References

1 Timothy 6:9

> People who want to be rich fall into temptation and get caught in a trap.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

> People who love money never feel they have enough, and people who love riches are never content with what they make.

Proverbs 15:16

> A little with respect for the Lord is better than great wealth with trouble.

Spiritual Principle

Life is more than possessions.

Spiritual Warning

Greed is a quiet danger that must be guarded against.

XVI. AN ABUNDANT HARVEST

Luke 12:16 — A Rich Man

“And He told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest.”

“A certain rich man.”

He was already rich.

“Yielded an abundant harvest.”

A good year.

Not sinful in itself.

The question is what he would do with it.

Cross References

Psalm 49:16

> Do not be troubled when someone becomes rich and his house grows grand.

Ecclesiastes 2:18

> I hated all my hard work, because I must leave it to someone who comes after me.

Ecclesiastes 5:19

> When God gives someone wealth and the ability to enjoy it, that is a gift from God.

Spiritual Principle

Blessings test what is in our hearts.

Key Truth

Abundance is a test as well as a gift.

XVII. WHAT SHALL I DO?

Luke 12:17 — No Place to Store

“He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’”

“He thought to himself.”

He talked only to himself.

Not to God.

Not to others.

“I have no place to store my crops.”

Notice the words “my” and “I.”

He never thought of God or the poor.

Cross References

Ecclesiastes 5:10

The lover of money never has enough.

Psalm 39:6

People rush around for nothing. They heap up wealth without knowing who will get it.

Proverbs 27:1

Don't boast about what you will do tomorrow. You have no idea what the day will hold.

Spiritual Principle

Self-centered thinking leaves God out.

Key Truth

The rich man's plans were all about himself.

XVIII. BIGGER BARNS

Luke 12:18 — My Surplus

“Then he said, ‘This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain.”

“I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones.”

More storage for himself.

“There I will store my surplus grain.”

He could have shared it.

Instead he hoarded it.

Cross References

Ecclesiastes 2:4

I did great things. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself.

James 4:13

> Listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this city, spend a year there, and make money.”

1 Timothy 6:17

> Command the rich not to be arrogant or trust in money, which can vanish, but to trust in God.

Spiritual Principle

Surplus is an opportunity to give, not just to store.

Key Truth

The rich man's answer to abundance was bigger barns, not open hands.

XIX. TAKE LIFE EASY

Luke 12:19 — Eat, Drink, and Be Merry

“And I'll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink, and be merry.”””

“Plenty of grain laid up for many years.”

He thought his future was secure.

“Take life easy; eat, drink, and be merry.”

A life of comfort and pleasure.

He assumed he had many years left.

Cross References

Ecclesiastes 8:15

> So I recommend enjoying life, because there is nothing better under the sun than to eat, drink, and be glad.

Isaiah 22:13

> Instead there was joy and celebration. They said, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!”

1 Corinthians 15:32

If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

Spiritual Principle

Wealth cannot guarantee the future.

Spiritual Warning

Do not assume you have many years left.

XX. YOU FOOL!

Luke 12:20 — This Very Night

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’”

“But God said to him.”

The first time God appears in the story.

“You fool!”

In the Bible, a fool is someone who lives as if God does not matter.

“This very night your life will be demanded from you.”

He planned for years.

He had hours.

“Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?”

He could not take any of it with him.

Cross References

Job 27:8

What hope does a godless person have when God takes away his life?

Psalm 49:17

When he dies he will take nothing with him. His riches will not follow him into the grave.

James 4:14

> You cannot know what tomorrow holds. Your life is like a puff of steam that is seen for a moment and then is gone.

Spiritual Principle

Life is short and wealth stays behind.

Key Truth

The one who forgets God is the true fool.

XXI. RICH TOWARD GOD

Luke 12:21 — Not Stored for Self

“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.””

“Whoever stores up things for themselves.”

Living only for self.

“But is not rich toward God.”

Being rich toward God means investing in what matters to Him.

Generosity.

Faith.

Love for others.

Cross References

1 Timothy 6:18

> Teach them to do what is good, to be wealthy in kind deeds, to give freely, and to be happy to share.

Matthew 6:19

> Do not pile up riches here on earth, where insects and rust eat them away and robbers can break in and take them.

James 5:1

> Listen, you who are rich: cry and groan, because misery is on its way to you.

Spiritual Principle

True riches are found in God.

Application

Are you rich toward God, or only toward yourself?

XXII. DO NOT WORRY

Luke 12:22 — About Your Life

“Then Jesus said to His disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear.”

“Therefore.”

Because life is not about possessions.

“Do not worry about your life.”

The rich man worried about too much.

The poor may worry about too little.

Jesus speaks to both.

This is not a rebuke for those who struggle with anxiety, but an invitation to trust a caring Father.

Seeking help for ongoing anxiety is wise and good.

Cross References

Matthew 6:25

> That is why I tell you not to be anxious about food or drink to keep you alive, or about clothes for your body.

Philippians 4:6

> Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, take your requests to God through prayer, with thanks.

1 Peter 5:7

Throw all your worries on Him, because He cares for you.

Spiritual Principle

God invites us to trust Him instead of worrying.

Key Truth

Worry is replaced by trust in a caring Father.

XXIII. LIFE IS MORE

Luke 12:23 — Than Food and Clothes

“For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.”

Life is more than our daily needs.

God gave us life.

Will He not give us what we need to live it?

Cross References

Matthew 6:25

Isn't life worth more than food, and the body more than clothing?

1 Timothy 6:8

As long as we have food to eat and clothes to wear, that is enough for us.

Philippians 4:11

Whatever my situation, I have learned how to be at peace with it.

Spiritual Principle

Life is more than what we eat and wear.

Key Truth

The God who gave life will provide for it.

XXIV. CONSIDER THE RAVENS

Luke 12:24 — God Feeds Them

“Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!”

“Consider the ravens.”

Ravens were unclean birds.

Not valued by people.

“They have no storeroom or barn.”

Unlike the rich fool.

“Yet God feeds them.”

“How much more valuable you are than birds!”

Cross References

Matthew 6:26

> Watch the birds flying overhead. They don't sow, reap, or store up food, yet your Father in heaven keeps them fed.

Psalm 147:9

> He gives food to the animals and to the young ravens when they call.

Job 38:41

> Who gives food to the raven when its young cry out to God?

Spiritual Principle

God feeds even the birds no one values.

Key Truth

If God feeds ravens, He will feed you.

XXV. A SINGLE HOUR

Luke 12:25 — Worry Adds Nothing

“Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?”

Worry cannot lengthen life.

It cannot change the future.

It only steals today's peace.

Cross References

Matthew 6:27

> Can worry stretch your life by even an hour?

Psalm 39:5

> You have made my days just a few hand widths long. My whole life is nothing to You.

Psalm 90:12

> Teach us to count our days so we may become wise.

Spiritual Principle

Worry accomplishes nothing.

Key Truth

Worry cannot add a single hour, but trust can add peace to every hour.

XXVI. WHY WORRY ABOUT THE REST?

Luke 12:26 — This Very Little Thing

“Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?”

If we cannot control even one hour, why worry about everything else?

Leave it with God.

Cross References

Matthew 6:27

> Worry cannot make your life even a little longer.

Psalm 127:2

> It is useless to get up early and stay up late, working hard for food. The Lord gives sleep to those He loves.

1 Peter 5:7

> Leave all your cares with God, because He looks after you.

Spiritual Principle

Trust God with what you cannot control.

Key Truth

What is beyond our control is never beyond God's.

XXVII. CONSIDER THE LILIES

Luke 12:27 — Not Even Solomon

“Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.”

“Consider how the lilies grow.”

Wildflowers.

“They do not labor or spin.”

No effort.

“Not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.”

God's beauty outshines the richest king.

Cross References

Matthew 6:28

> Why worry about clothes? Look at how the wildflowers grow. They do not work or make clothes.

Matthew 6:29

> Yet I assure you, King Solomon in all his royal splendor never wore clothes as lovely as one of these flowers.

1 Kings 10:4

> The Queen of Sheba saw all of Solomon's wisdom and the palace he had built.

Spiritual Principle

God clothes His creation with beauty.

Key Truth

God's care is more beautiful than human wealth.

XXVIII. YOU OF LITTLE FAITH

Luke 12:28 — How Much More

“If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will He clothe you—you of little faith!”

“The grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire.”

Short-lived.

Used for fuel.

“How much more will He clothe you.”

“You of little faith!”

A gentle rebuke.

Worry shows small faith in a great God.

Cross References

Matthew 6:30

> God takes care to dress the wild grass this beautifully. Will He not take far better care of you? Why is your trust so small?

Psalm 90:5

> People are like grass that grows in the morning.

Isaiah 40:6

> All people are like grass, and all their beauty is like flowers of the field.

Spiritual Principle

God cares for His children far more than for grass.

Key Truth

Small faith worries; growing faith trusts.

XXIX. DO NOT SET YOUR HEART

Luke 12:29 — On Food and Drink

“And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it.”

“Do not set your heart on.”

Do not let these things become your main focus.

“Do not worry about it.”

Jesus is not saying food does not matter.

He is saying it must not control our hearts.

Cross References

Matthew 6:31

> So stop fretting and asking, “What will we have to eat or drink? What will we put on?”

Philippians 4:11

> I have learned to be satisfied with what I have.

Hebrews 13:5

> Don't let love for money take hold of you. Be happy with what you already have.

Spiritual Principle

Our hearts should be set on God, not on possessions.

Key Truth

Needs are real, but they must not rule us.

XXX. YOUR FATHER KNOWS

Luke 12:30 — What You Need

“For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them.”

“The pagan world runs after all such things.”

People who do not know God chase after these things.

“Your Father knows that you need them.”

The difference for believers is not that we have no needs.

It is that we have a Father who knows them.

Cross References

Matthew 6:32

> People who do not know God chase after all these things, but your Father in heaven knows you need them.

Psalm 34:9

> Honor the Lord, you His holy people, because those who honor Him lack nothing.

Psalm 34:10

> Those who seek the Lord will not lack any good thing.

Spiritual Principle

Our Father knows what we need.

Key Truth

We are not orphans; we have a Father who knows.

XXXI. SEEK HIS KINGDOM

Luke 12:31 — These Things Will Be Given

“But seek His kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.”

“But seek His kingdom.”

Make God's rule your first priority.

“And these things will be given to you as well.”

God takes care of those who put Him first.

Not a promise of riches.

A promise of provision.

Cross References

Matthew 6:33

> Put God's kingdom and His righteousness first, and He will supply all these other things too.

Psalm 37:4

> Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you what your heart truly wants.

1 Kings 3:13

> God said, “I will also give you what you did not ask for: riches and honor.”

Spiritual Principle

Put God first, and He will provide.

Key Truth

Seeking the kingdom frees us from chasing everything else.

XXXII. LITTLE FLOCK

Luke 12:32 — The Father's Pleasure

““Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”

“Do not be afraid.”

“Little flock.”

Small.

Vulnerable.

Loved.

“Your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”

God is not stingy.

He delights to give His people the greatest gift of all.

Cross References

Isaiah 41:14

> Do not be afraid, you little worm Jacob, you few people of Israel. I Myself will help you, says the Lord.

Daniel 7:27

> Then the kingdom, power, and greatness of all kingdoms under heaven will be given to God's holy people.

Psalm 23:1

> The Lord is my shepherd, so I will not go without.

Spiritual Principle

God delights to give His people the kingdom.

Key Truth

If God gives us the kingdom, He will not withhold daily needs.

XXXIII. TREASURE IN HEAVEN

Luke 12:33 — Purses That Will Not Wear Out

“Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.”

“Sell your possessions and give to the poor.”

The opposite of the rich fool.

Jesus calls for open-handed generosity.

Some are called to give up everything; all are called to hold possessions loosely and give generously.

“A treasure in heaven that will never fail.”

Earthly wealth can be stolen or destroyed.

Heavenly treasure is safe forever.

Cross References

Matthew 6:19

> Do not collect treasure for yourselves on earth, where moths and rust ruin it and thieves break in and take it.

Matthew 19:21

> Jesus said, “If you want to be complete, go and sell what you own and give the money to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven.”

Acts 2:45

> They sold their land and belongings and shared the money with anyone who was in need.

Spiritual Principle

Generosity stores up treasure in heaven.

Key Truth

What we give away for God, we keep forever.

XXXIV. WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS

Luke 12:34 — Your Heart Will Be Also

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

What we value most captures our hearts.

If our treasure is on earth, our hearts will be here.

If our treasure is in heaven, our hearts will be there.

Our spending shows our loves.

Cross References

Matthew 6:21

Your heart will always follow what you treasure.

Job 31:24

If I have put my trust in gold or said to pure gold, “You are my security,”

Colossians 3:2

Think about the things of heaven, not the things of this earth.

Spiritual Principle

Our hearts follow our treasure.

Application

Where is your treasure? That is where your heart is.

XXXV. DRESSED AND READY

Luke 12:35 — Lamps Burning

““Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning,”

“Be dressed ready for service.”

Long robes were tucked into the belt for action.

Ready to move.

“Keep your lamps burning.”

Ready even at night.

Always prepared.

Cross References

Exodus 12:11

> Eat it with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your walking stick in your hand. Eat it quickly.

Matthew 25:4

> The wise ones took oil in jars along with their lamps.

1 Peter 1:13

> So get your minds ready to act. Stay clear-headed, and put all your hope in the grace that will be given to you when Jesus Christ appears.

Spiritual Principle

Disciples stay ready for the Lord.

Key Truth

Readiness is a daily way of life.

XXXVI. WAITING FOR THE MASTER

Luke 12:36 — Returning from a Wedding

“like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him.”

“Servants waiting for their master.”

He would come back, but they did not know when.

“When he comes and knocks.”

“They can immediately open the door.”

No delay.

Ready to welcome him.

Cross References

Matthew 25:1

> The kingdom of heaven will be like ten young women who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Mark 13:34

> It is like a man going on a trip. He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with a job, and tells the doorkeeper to keep watch.

Revelation 19:9

> Happy are those who have been invited to the Lamb's wedding feast!

Spiritual Principle

Believers wait for the Lord's return with readiness.

Key Truth

Jesus will come back.

XXXVII. THE MASTER WILL SERVE THEM

Luke 12:37 — Recline at the Table

“It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.”

“Whose master finds them watching.”

“He will dress himself to serve.”

Astonishing.

The master serves the servants.

Jesus did this when He washed His disciples' feet.

He will honor His faithful servants when He returns.

Cross References

Matthew 24:46

> It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing his job when he comes back.

Revelation 3:20

> Look, I am standing at the door, knocking. Whoever hears Me calling and opens the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together.

John 13:4

> So He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist.

Spiritual Principle

The Lord honors those who wait faithfully for Him.

Key Truth

The King will serve His faithful servants.

XXXVIII. MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Luke 12:38 — Ready Whenever

“It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak.”

The hardest times to stay awake.

The master might come late.

Faithful servants stay ready no matter how long the wait.

Cross References

Matthew 25:5

> The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became sleepy and fell asleep.

Mark 13:35

> So keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back: evening, midnight, when the rooster crows, or at dawn.

Matthew 24:46

> Blessed is the servant who is found doing his work when his master returns.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness endures through long waiting.

Key Truth

The delay of the Lord tests our readiness.

XXXIX. LIKE A THIEF

Luke 12:39 — At What Hour

“But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.”

A thief does not announce his coming.

If we knew, we would be ready.

We do not know when Jesus will return.

So we must always be ready.

Cross References

Matthew 24:43

> If the owner of the house had known what time of night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake.

1 Thessalonians 5:2

> You already understand that the Lord's day will arrive the way a thief comes at night.

2 Peter 3:10

> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief.

Spiritual Principle

The Lord's return will be unexpected.

Key Truth

Readiness cannot wait until the last minute.

XL. YOU MUST BE READY

Luke 12:40 — An Hour You Do Not Expect

“You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.””

“You also must be ready.”

“The Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

No one knows the day or hour.

Many have tried to predict it.

All have been wrong.

The call is not to calculate, but to be ready.

Cross References

Matthew 24:44

> That is why you must always be prepared. The Son of Man will come when you are not looking for Him.

Matthew 25:13

> Stay alert, then, since neither the day nor the hour is known to you.

Revelation 16:15

> Look, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake.

Spiritual Principle

Be ready at all times for Christ's return.

Key Truth

The question is not when Jesus will come, but whether we will be ready.

XLI. TO US OR TO EVERYONE?

Luke 12:41 — Peter's Question

“Peter asked, “Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?””

Peter wanted to know who the warning was for.

Jesus answered with another story.

The answer: especially to those given responsibility, but really to all.

Cross References

Mark 13:37

> My word to you is My word to all: stay awake!

Matthew 24:3

> The followers came to Him privately and asked, “Tell us, when will these things happen?”

Mark 4:34

> When He was alone with His followers, He explained everything to them.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' call to readiness is for everyone.

Key Truth

No one is exempt from being ready.

XLII. THE FAITHFUL AND WISE MANAGER

Luke 12:42 — Food at the Proper Time

“The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?”

“The faithful and wise manager.”

Faithful: dependable.

Wise: thoughtful.

“Whom the master puts in charge of his servants.”

Leaders serve others.

“To give them their food allowance at the proper time.”

Caring for others while the master is away.

Cross References

Matthew 24:45

> Which servant is trustworthy and sensible? It is the one his master puts over the household to hand out their meals when it is time.

1 Corinthians 4:2

> Those who are trusted with something must prove faithful.

1 Peter 4:10

> God has given each of you a gift. Use it to help one another, taking good care of the many kinds of grace God gives.

Spiritual Principle

God's servants are called to be faithful and wise managers.

Key Truth

Leadership means caring for others.

XLIII. FOUND DOING SO

Luke 12:43 — It Will Be Good

“It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns.”

Faithful when no one is watching.

Doing the work, not just talking about it.

Blessed when the master returns.

Cross References

Matthew 24:46

> That servant will be happy when his master comes and finds him doing his work.

Revelation 16:15

> Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes on.

James 1:25

> The person who looks carefully into the perfect law that gives freedom and keeps doing it will be blessed in what he does.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness is rewarded.

Key Truth

The Master looks for servants who are doing His work.

XLIV. IN CHARGE OF ALL

Luke 12:44 — Greater Responsibility

“Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.”

Faithfulness in small things leads to greater trust.

The reward for faithful service is more opportunity to serve.

Cross References

Matthew 24:47

> I promise you, the master will make him manager over all his property.

Matthew 25:21

> You did well, My good and loyal servant! You handled a small amount faithfully, so now I will trust you with much more.

Matthew 25:23

> You have been faithful in a few things. I will give you many things to care for. Come and share your master's joy.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness is rewarded with greater responsibility.

Key Truth

Faithful service leads to greater trust.

XLV. MY MASTER IS TAKING A LONG TIME

Luke 12:45 — The Unfaithful Servant

“But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk.”

“My master is taking a long time in coming.”

The delay led to carelessness.

“Begins to beat the other servants.”

Abuse of power.

“And to eat and drink and get drunk.”

Self-indulgence.

Forgetting the master's return leads to sin.

Cross References

Matthew 24:48

> But suppose that servant is wicked and thinks, “My master won't be back for a long time.”

2 Peter 3:3

> In the last days scoffers will come, mocking and following their own evil desires.

Ezekiel 12:22

What is this saying you have in Israel: “The days go by and every vision comes to nothing”?

Spiritual Principle

Forgetting the Lord's return leads to careless living.

Spiritual Warning

Those in authority must never abuse it.

XLVI. AN UNEXPECTED DAY

Luke 12:46 — A Place with the Unbelievers

“The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.”

“On a day when he does not expect him.”

Surprise.

“He will cut him to pieces.”

Strong picture language for severe judgment.

“Assign him a place with the unbelievers.”

His actions showed he never truly belonged to the master.

Cross References

Matthew 24:50

The master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know.

Matthew 25:30

Throw that useless servant outside into the darkness, where people will cry and grind their teeth.

2 Peter 2:9

The Lord knows how to rescue godly people from trials and to hold the wicked for punishment on the day of judgment.

Spiritual Principle

Unfaithfulness will face judgment.

Spiritual Warning

How we live while waiting reveals whether we truly belong to the Master.

XLVII. KNOWING AND NOT DOING

Luke 12:47 — Many Blows

“The servant who knows the master's will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows.”

“Who knows the master's will.”

He knew.

“And does not get ready or does not do what the master wants.”

He chose not to obey.

“Will be beaten with many blows.”

Greater knowledge means greater accountability.

Cross References

James 4:17

> When someone knows what is right and does not do it, he is sinning.

Deuteronomy 25:2

> If the guilty person deserves to be beaten, the judge will have him beaten in his presence with the number of blows his crime deserves.

John 9:41

> Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty. But since you claim you can see, your guilt remains.”

Spiritual Principle

Knowing God's will brings responsibility to do it.

Key Truth

Knowledge without obedience increases guilt.

XLVIII. MUCH GIVEN, MUCH REQUIRED

Luke 12:48 — Few Blows and Much More

“But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.””

“The one who does not know.”

Ignorance does not erase guilt.

“Will be beaten with few blows.”

But it does lessen it.

God's judgment is perfectly fair.

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded.”

Privilege brings responsibility.

Those who have the Bible, the gospel, and many blessings will give account for them.

Cross References

Matthew 25:14

> It is like a man going on a journey who called his servants and put them in charge of his money.

James 3:1

> My brothers and sisters, not many of you should try to be teachers. Those of us who teach will face a stricter judgment.

1 Corinthians 4:2

> Those put in charge must be faithful.

Spiritual Principle

Privilege brings responsibility.

Key Truth

To whom much is given, much is required.

XLIX. FIRE ON THE EARTH

Luke 12:49 — How I Wish

““I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!”

“I have come to bring fire on the earth.”

Fire purifies.

Fire judges.

Fire divides.

Jesus' coming would set the world ablaze with truth.

“How I wish it were already kindled!”

Jesus longed for His mission to be complete.

Cross References

Matthew 3:11

> He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Malachi 3:2

> Who can endure the day of His coming? He will be like a refiner's fire.

Jeremiah 23:29

> The Lord says, “My word burns like fire. It is like a hammer that smashes rock.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' mission purifies and divides.

Key Truth

Jesus did not come to leave things as they were.

L. A BAPTISM TO UNDERGO

Luke 12:50 — Until It Is Completed

“But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed!”

“A baptism to undergo.”

Not water baptism.

His suffering and death.

He would be overwhelmed by suffering.

“What constraint I am under until it is completed!”

Jesus felt the weight of the cross ahead of Him.

He was determined to finish it.

Cross References

Mark 10:38

> Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?

Matthew 20:22

> Jesus said, “You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?”

John 12:27

> My heart is deeply troubled now. Should I ask, “Father, rescue Me from this hour”? No, I came for this very hour.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus was determined to complete His suffering for us.

Key Truth

The cross weighed on Jesus' heart long before He reached it.

LI. NOT PEACE BUT DIVISION

Luke 12:51 — Do You Think?

“Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.”

This seems surprising.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

He brings peace with God.

But following Him also divides people.

Some accept Him.

Others reject Him.

This is not Jesus' goal, but the result of people's different responses to Him.

Cross References

Matthew 10:34

> Don't imagine that I came to make everything peaceful on earth. I came to bring a sword that divides.

Micah 7:6

> A son dishonors his father, a daughter rises against her mother. A person's enemies are the members of his own household.

Matthew 10:35

> I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother.

Spiritual Principle

Loyalty to Jesus may bring division.

Key Truth

Peace with God may cost peace with others.

LII. FIVE IN ONE FAMILY

Luke 12:52 — Divided

“From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three.”

The division reaches into homes.

When some follow Jesus and others do not, tension can come.

This was true in the early church, and it is still true in many places today.

Cross References

Matthew 10:35

> I came to set a son against his father and a daughter against her mother.

Micah 7:6

> Your enemies will be the people in your own home.

Matthew 10:36

> The people in a person's own home may become his enemies.

Spiritual Principle

Faith in Jesus can divide families.

Key Truth

Loyalty to Jesus must come first, even above family.

LIII. FATHER AGAINST SON

Luke 12:53 — Mother Against Daughter

“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 quoted Micah.

The closest relationships can be strained.

Believers should still love, honor, and pray for their families.

Following Jesus never gives permission to mistreat family.

But when family demands we deny Christ, He must come first.

Cross References

Micah 7:6

A son treats his father with contempt, and a daughter turns against her mother.

Matthew 10:35

A daughter-in-law will be against her mother-in-law.

Matthew 10:21

Brothers will hand over brothers to be killed, and fathers will hand over their children.

Spiritual Principle

Christ comes first, but love for family continues.

Application

Pray for family members who do not yet follow Jesus.

LIV. A CLOUD IN THE WEST

Luke 12:54 — It's Going to Rain

“He said to the crowd: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘It's going to rain,’ and it does.”

Clouds from the west came off the Mediterranean Sea.

They brought rain.

The people could read the weather.

Cross References

Matthew 16:2

He replied, “When evening comes, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, because the sky is red.’”

1 Kings 18:44

The seventh time the servant said, “A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea.”

1 Kings 18:45

Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, and a heavy rain began to fall.

Spiritual Principle

People can read signs when they want to.

Key Truth

The crowd was skilled at reading the sky.

LV. THE SOUTH WIND

Luke 12:55 — It's Going to Be Hot

“And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It's going to be hot,’ and it is.”

The south wind came from the desert.

It brought heat.

They knew the signs of the weather well.

Cross References

Job 37:17

You sweat in your clothes when the land is still under the south wind.

Matthew 16:2

You can tell the weather by looking at the sky.

Song of Solomon 4:16

Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden.

Spiritual Principle

We are careful to read the things we care about.

Key Truth

People notice what matters to them.

LVI. INTERPRET THIS PRESENT TIME

Luke 12:56 — Hypocrites!

“Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?”

“Hypocrites!”

“You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky.”

“How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?”

They could predict rain.

But they could not see that the Messiah was standing in front of them.

The signs were all around them.

Cross References

Matthew 16:3

> You know how to read the sky, but you cannot read the signs of the times.

Matthew 16:4

> A wicked and unfaithful generation looks for a sign.

John 3:19

> The light has come into the world, yet people chose darkness over light, because what they were doing was evil.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual blindness misses what God is doing.

Spiritual Warning

It is possible to be wise about the world and blind about God.

LVII. JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES

Luke 12:57 — What Is Right

““Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right?”

Jesus urged them to think.

Use the sense God gave you.

You do not need more signs.

You need to decide.

Cross References

John 7:24

> Do not decide by what things look like on the surface. Decide by what is truly right.

1 Corinthians 11:13

> Judge for yourselves.

John 5:30

> My judgment is fair, because I do not try to please Myself but the One who sent Me.

Spiritual Principle

God calls us to think honestly and decide.

Key Truth

You can know what is right if you are willing.

LVIII. RECONCILED ON THE WAY

Luke 12:58 — Before the Judge

“As you are going with your adversary to the magistrate, try hard to be reconciled on the way, or your adversary may drag you off to the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison.”

“Try hard to be reconciled on the way.”

Settle the matter before it reaches court.

It is wise in daily life.

And it is a picture of our need to make peace with God before the final judgment.

The time to be reconciled is now.

Cross References

Matthew 5:25

> If someone is taking you to court, make peace with him quickly, while you are still walking there together.

Proverbs 25:8

> Do not hurry to take someone to court. What will you do if your neighbor proves you wrong?

Matthew 5:26

> You will not get out until you have paid every last penny.

Spiritual Principle

Make peace with God while there is time.

Key Truth

The road to judgment is the time for reconciliation.

LIX. THE LAST PENNY

Luke 12:59 — You Will Not Get Out

“I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.””

A serious ending.

Those who refuse to be reconciled will face full justice.

But the good news is that Jesus paid our debt.

Through Him, we can be reconciled to God today.

Cross References

Matthew 5:26

> You will stay there until every penny is paid.

Matthew 18:34

> In anger his master handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

Matthew 18:30

> He refused and had him thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

Spiritual Principle

Without reconciliation, the debt remains.

Key Truth

Jesus paid the debt we could never pay.

LX. NINE GREAT LESSONS FROM LUKE 12

1. Hypocrisy Is Dangerous

“There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed.”

Principle:

God will reveal all hidden things.

2. Fear God, Not People

“You are worth more than many sparrows.”

Principle:

God values His children and knows them intimately.

3. Confess Christ Openly

“The Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God.”

Principle:

Confessing Christ openly leads to His acknowledgment before heaven.

4. Greed Destroys the Soul

“Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

Principle:

Life's worth is not found in possessions.

5. Trust Instead of Worry

“Your Father knows that you need them.”

Principle:

Faith trusts God's care rather than worrying about material needs.

6. Be Watchful

“The Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Principle:

The Lord will return at an unexpected hour, so we must be ready.

7. Privilege Brings Responsibility

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded.”

Principle:

Accountability is greater for those who know God's will.

8. Christ Brings Division as Well as Peace

“Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No… but division.”

Principle:

Loyalty to Christ can divide households.

9. Discern the Times and Reconcile Quickly

“Try hard to be reconciled on the way.”

Principle:

Discerning the times and making peace quickly are marks of wisdom.

LXI. TWO WAYS TO LIVE

Luke 12 contrasts two ways of life.

The Rich Fool

Stored up for himself.

Talked only to himself.

Trusted in his barns.

Assumed he had many years.

Was not rich toward God.

The Faithful Disciple

Seeks God's kingdom.

Trusts the Father's care.

Gives generously.

Stays ready for the Lord's return.

Stores up treasure in heaven.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The wise live for God's kingdom; the foolish live for themselves.

LXII. THE CURE FOR WORRY

Jesus gave reasons not to worry.

Life Is More

“Life is more than food.”

God Feeds the Ravens

“Yet God feeds them.”

Worry Adds Nothing

“Who of you by worrying can add a single hour?”

God Clothes the Lilies

“How much more will He clothe you.”

Your Father Knows

“Your Father knows that you need them.”

Seek the Kingdom

“Seek His kingdom, and these things will be given to you.”

The Kingdom Is a Gift

“Your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”

Key Truth

The cure for worry is knowing the Father's care and seeking His kingdom first.

LXIII. READY FOR HIS RETURN

Jesus taught His disciples how to wait.

Be Dressed for Service

“Be dressed ready for service.”

Keep Your Lamps Burning

“Keep your lamps burning.”

Watch

“Whose master finds them watching.”

Be Faithful

“Whom the master finds doing so.”

Do Not Grow Careless

“My master is taking a long time.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Readiness for Christ's return means faithful service every day.

LXIV. WHAT LUKE 12 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Calls Us Friends

“I tell you, My friends.”

He Will Acknowledge His Own

“The Son of Man will also acknowledge.”

He Sends the Spirit to Help

“The Holy Spirit will teach you.”

He Sees Our Hearts

“Be on your guard against all kinds of greed.”

He Reveals the Father's Care

“Your Father knows.”

He Will Return

“The Son of Man will come.”

He Serves His Servants

“He will dress himself to serve.”

He Faced His Baptism of Suffering

“I have a baptism to undergo.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus is the returning Lord who calls us friends, serves His servants, and suffered for us.

LXV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What is the yeast of the Pharisees?

Hypocrisy.

Question 2

Why should we fear God rather than people?

People can only harm the body, but God holds eternal destiny.

Question 3

What do the sparrows and the hairs of our head teach?

God knows and values each of His children.

Question 4

What is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit?

A settled, hardened refusal of the Spirit's witness to Jesus. Those worried about committing it show their hearts are not hardened.

Question 5

Why did Jesus refuse to divide the man's inheritance?

He came to deal with hearts, and the real problem was greed.

Question 6

What was the rich fool's mistake?

He stored up for himself, left God out, and was not rich toward God.

Question 7

What reasons does Jesus give not to worry?

God feeds the ravens and clothes the lilies, worry adds nothing, and the Father knows what we need.

Question 8

What does Jesus tell us to seek?

His kingdom.

Question 9

What does it mean to be ready for Christ's return?

To be faithful in service and watchful every day.

Question 10

What happens to the servant who knows the master's will but does not do it?

He receives greater punishment, because knowledge brings responsibility.

Question 11

How can Jesus, the Prince of Peace, bring division?

People respond to Him differently, and loyalty to Him can divide families.

Question 12

What should Luke 12 change about the way Christians live today?

Luke 12 should cause believers to live:

- Honestly, with nothing to hide.
- Fearing God, not people.
- Confessing Christ openly.
- Guarding against greed.
- Trusting God instead of worrying.
- Giving generously and storing treasure in heaven.
- Ready for Christ's return.

- Faithful with all God has given them.

LXVI. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Luke 12 asks several important questions.

Is There Hypocrisy in My Life?

What would I not want revealed?

Whom Do I Fear Most?

God, or people?

Do I Confess Christ Openly?

Or do I hide my faith?

Am I Rich Toward God?

Or only toward myself?

What Am I Worried About?

Have I trusted it to my Father?

Where Is My Treasure?

Where is my heart?

Am I Ready for Jesus to Return?

If He came today, would He find me faithful?

What Have I Been Given?

How am I using it for God?

LXVII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Rich Toward God”

The rich man had a great harvest.

He made great plans.

Bigger barns.

Many years of ease.

He talked only to himself.

He never thought of God.

He never thought of the poor.

Then God said:

“You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you.”

He was rich in barns but poor toward God.

He planned for years but had only hours.

He left everything behind.

This creates a powerful principle.

We cannot take anything with us.

But we can send treasure ahead.

Principle:

The richest person is not the one with the biggest barns, but the one who is rich toward God.

LXVIII. FINAL APPLICATION

Luke Chapter 12 calls disciples to live with eternity in view.

Jesus warns against hypocrisy.

He tells us to fear God, not people.

He promises to acknowledge those who confess Him.

He warns against greed through the rich fool.

He calls us not to worry but to seek His kingdom.

He tells us to be ready for His return.

He reminds us that much is required from those given much.

He warns that following Him may divide families.

And He calls us to make peace with God while there is still time.

Luke 12 therefore reminds us:

Never live a double life.

Never fear people more than God.

Never let greed rule your heart.

Never let worry steal your trust.

Never grow careless while waiting for the Lord.

The church does not need people who only build bigger barns.

It needs:

People who are rich toward God.

People who trust their Father instead of worrying.

People who are faithful and ready.

And people who confess Christ openly, whatever the cost.

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people that God knows and values them.

Tell people that life is more than possessions.

Tell people that Jesus is coming again.

Tell people to make peace with God today.

And as you live:

Fear God.

Trust your Father.

Store treasure in heaven.

Be ready.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that nothing is hidden from You.

Thank You that You know every sparrow and every hair on our heads.

Thank You that Jesus calls us friends.

Thank You that the Holy Spirit helps us when we are tested.

Thank You that You know what we need.

Thank You that You are pleased to give us the kingdom.

Thank You that Jesus is coming again.

Forgive us for hypocrisy.

Forgive us when we have feared people more than You.

Forgive us for greed and for storing up only for ourselves.

Forgive us for worry and little faith.

Forgive us when we have grown careless while waiting for Jesus.

Make us rich toward You.

Help us seek Your kingdom first.

Give us generous hearts.

Keep us faithful and ready.

And help us confess Christ openly, whatever it costs.

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” — Luke 12:34

Central Truth

Followers of Jesus live honestly before God, fear Him instead of people, trust His care instead of worrying or hoarding, and stay faithful and ready for the Lord's return, knowing that loyalty to Christ may cost them but His kingdom is worth everything.

Luke 12 in One Sentence

Jesus warns His disciples against hypocrisy and the fear of people, teaches through the rich fool that life is not found in possessions, calls them to trust their Father instead of worrying and to seek His kingdom, urges them to stay faithful and ready for His return, and warns that loyalty to Him will divide and that now is the time to make peace with God.