### Luke

## Chapter 12

1Well, a huge crowd had gathered… There were so many thousands that they were literally stepping on each other. Then [Jesus gave this warning to] his disciples.   
  
He said:  
  
 ‘Watch out for the fermentation of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.  
  
 2‘For there’s nothing hidden that won’t be exposed,  
 And no secret that won’t be known.  
 3So the things that you say in the darkness,  
 Will be all heard in the light.  
 And whatever is whispered within private rooms,  
 Will be shouted aloud from the rooftops!  
  
 4‘I tell you this, my friends:  
  
 ‘Fear not those who can kill the body,  
 But can do no more than that.  
  
 5‘Let me show you whom you must fear:  
  
 ‘Fear the One, who after killing [your body],  
 Can throw [your life] into the garbage…  
 Yes, He’s the One you must fear!  
  
 6‘Although you can buy 5 sparrows with just 2 small coins,  
 In the eyes of God, they’re not overlooked…  
 7And He’s even numbered the hairs on your head.  
 So you have no reason for fear,  
 Since, more than many sparrows, is your value!  
  
 8‘I tell you this:  
  
 ‘For those who’ll admit before others,  
 That they’re united with me.  
 The Son of Man will also admit  
 That they’re one with him before angels.  
 9But for those who deny me to others,  
 I’ll deny knowing them before angels.  
  
 10‘Now, those who speak against the Son of Man can be forgiven; but those who blaspheme [God’s] Holy Breath won’t be forgiven! 11So when they drag you up before synagogues, or authorities, or government officials, don’t worry about what you must do or what you must say in your defense. 12For you’ll be taught what to say by [God’s] Holy Breath at that time.’  
  
13Then someone in the crowd shouted:  
  
 ‘Teacher, tell my brother to share his inheritance with me!’  
  
14And [Jesus] said:  
  
 ‘Man, who appointed me as judge or arbitrator between you two?’  
  
15Then he [went on] to say this:  
  
 ‘Keep your eyes open and guard against greed... For the things that you own won’t buy you life.’  
  
  
16And then he gave them this parable:  
  
 ‘A rich man’s fields produced well, 17so he thought about this and then asked himself:  
  
 ‘What should I do, since there’s not enough room  
 In which to store all my crops?’  
  
 18‘Then he said:  
  
 ‘Ah, I’ll do this –   
 I’ll tear down my barns and build larger,  
 And that’s where I’ll put all my wheat  
 As well as my other good things.  
  
 19‘Then I’ll say to myself:  
 You now have many good things  
 Saved away [to last] many years.  
 So, you can just take it easy…  
 Yes, eat, drink, and enjoy it!’  
  
 20‘But God said:  
  
 ‘O foolish man!  
 Tonight, they’re demanding your life!  
 So, who will now own all these things?’  
  
 21‘Yes, this is what will happen to a man  
 Who lays away treasures for himself,  
 But fails to gain wealth with God.’  
  
  
22Then he said to his disciples:  
  
 ‘This is why I’ve told you not to worry about your lives and about what you’ll eat, or about your bodies and what you’ll wear.  
  
 23‘For your lives are worth so much more than food, and your bodies are worth [so much more] than clothes.  
  
 24‘Notice the ravens; they don’t plant or harvest, and they don’t have barns or storage sheds, since they’re fed by God… So [think about] how much more you’re worth than those birds!  
  
 25‘And which of you can add even a smidgen to your lives by worrying?  
  
 26‘So if [worry] is unable fix little things, why be concerned about all these other things?  
  
 27‘Also notice how the lilies grow; although they don’t work or spin cloth – I tell you that even Solomon in all of his glory wasn’t as well-dressed as they are! 28So if God so well clothes the plants in the fields – that are here today and thrown into an oven tomorrow – how much more would He rather clothe you… You with so little faith?  
  
 29‘Therefore, stop searching for things to eat and drink, and don’t worry about how you’re going to get them! 30For these are the kinds of things that all the ethnics are pursuing.  
  
 ‘However, your Father already knows that you need all these things. 31And if you’ll keep on seeking His Kingdom first, you’ll receive all the rest.  
  
 32‘Don’t be afraid, little flock... For it’s the delight of your Father to give you the Kingdom!  
  
 33‘Therefore, sell everything that you own and give it to those who really need it. Make purses for yourselves that won’t wear out… The unfailing treasures in the heavens, which can’t be consumed by thieves or by moths.  
  
 34‘For where your treasures are is where your hearts will be.  
  
 35‘Therefore, wrap on your sashes and light up your lamps, 36then act like men who are expecting their master’s return from his wedding, so that when he arrives and starts knocking, you can open [the door] to him right away.  
  
 37‘Blest are those slaves who are watching  
 When their master arrives!  
 For I tell you this as the truth:  
 He will then put on his apron,  
 And make them recline at his table;  
 Then, he will come there and serve them!  
  
 38‘If it’s in the 2nd watch that he should arrive,  
 Or even if it’s during the 3rd...  
 You’ll be blest if he finds you doing these things!  
  
 39‘Recognize this:  
  
 ‘If the master of the house would’ve known  
 The time when the thieves would arrive,  
 He would have been keeping watch  
 And not let them enter his house.  
  
 40‘Likewise, you must also be ready!  
  
 ‘For the Son of Man will arrive  
 At a time that you consider unlikely.’  
  
41Then Peter asked:  
  
 ‘Lord, are you giving this parable to just us, or to everyone?’  
  
42And the Lord said:  
  
 ‘Who is the faithful house steward…  
 The sensible one, assigned by his lord  
 To be in charge over his faithful friends,  
 And to provide their meals at the right times?  
  
 43‘Such a slave will be blest  
 If he’s found doing that when his master arrives.  
 44I tell you the truth…  
 He will put him in charge of everything he owns!  
  
 45‘But if that slave should say in his heart:  
 ‘My master’s return is delayed!’  
 And then he starts beating [the Lord’s] boys and girls,  
 And he feasts, drinks, and gets drunk…  
 46His master will arrive on an time and date  
 That he’s not been expected,  
 And he’ll whip him and count him among the unfaithful.  
  
 47‘So the slave that knows what his master expects  
 And doesn’t prepare or do what he wants  
 Will be lashed with a whip many times.  
 48But the one who doesn’t understand  
 And does things for which he deserves to be whipped,  
 Will be beaten with [just a] few [strokes].  
  
 ‘For from those to whom much is given,  
 Much is also expected.  
 And from those who’ve been put in charge over much,  
 Much is also required.  
  
 49‘I came here to start a fire on the earth; so, what more could I possibly wish than to see it already lit?  
 50But there’s also an immersion coming that I must endure, and I’m under great pressure until it arrives.  
  
 51‘Do you think that I came to bring peace on earth?  
 No, I’ve come to create divisions!  
 52So, if there are five in a house,  
 They’ll be divided three against two,  
 Or two against three.  
  
 53‘Fathers will be against their own sons,  
 And sons [will be] against their own fathers…  
 Mothers will be against their own daughters,  
 And daughters will be against their own mothers.  
 It will be mothers-in-law against daughters-in-law,  
 And daughters-in-law against mothers-in-law!’  
  
  
54Then he said this to the crowd:  
  
 ‘When you see a cloud arise in the west,  
 You say that a storm is approaching… And it happens.  
 55And when you see the wind blow in from the south,  
 You say that a heat wave is coming… And it happens.  
  
 56‘Hypocrites! Since you know how to read the land and the sky,  
 Why can’t you read the [signs of the] times?  
  
 57‘It’s best to decide the right thing to do  
 58Than to [argue] your case before rulers.  
  
 ‘So, try to resolve things before you take it to them,  
 So you won’t be brought in front of a judge,  
 Who may hand you over to the bailiff,  
 Who will thereafter throw you into a jail.  
  
 59‘I tell you:  
  
 ‘If that happens, you won’t get out  
 Until you’ve paid your last cent.’