

# Luke 12 Part 2

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## Outline continued:

Anxiety Versus Faith  
Parable of the Watchful Servant  
Faithful and Unfaithful Servants  
The Effect of Christ's First Coming  
The Signs of the Times

## ANXIETY VERSUS FAITH

**(32.) "So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom. (33) "Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. (34) Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.**

- **Fear** is a driving force for all of us. Jesus tells His followers that the **Father** is involved in their future. He gladly gives the **kingdom** to the little group who follow Christ, not the scribes and Pharisees whom Jesus has previously warned against.
- **Kingdom investment tip: Sell your possessions and give to those in need.** Because the Father **gives** the **kingdom** to believers, believers, in turn must care for those in need. This does not say "Sell everything you own and give to the needy" because they themselves would soon be a burden on others. In Acts the believers shared, but didn't sell everything.
- The bank of heaven is underwritten by the Creator of All and cannot fail. Its holdings cannot be stolen by a **thief** or attacked by **moths**, as in the case of wealth held as garments. **The purses** that hold this **treasure** will not wear out.
- What a person considers valuable in life Jesus calls **treasure**. If one invests time and money in the work of Christ's **kingdom**, then his **heart** is focused on kingdom work.

## PARABLE OF THE WATCHFUL SERVANT

### (35.) “Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning,

- We wear clothes to suit what we are preparing to do. Some clothing is for lounging, some is for nightwear and some is for work. The believer must be **dressed for service** in the kingdom. Jesus is stressing *preparation*.



- The time for getting on this clothing is before the sun is up because **lamps** were to be **burning**.

### (36.) as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks.

- Followers of Jesus are to be like the servants whose **master** returns from a **wedding**. They must be in their work clothes and have the lights on so they can **open the door** when He **knocks**. The watchful servant must have enough maturity to stay awake and on the job. They spend their time readying the house for the master's return. They do not have to be supervised like children; they involved themselves in all kinds of activities even though the night wears on and on. Jesus is stressing *maturity*.

### (37.) The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat!

- The master will take the role of a **servant** and **serve** the **servants**. This will be a remarkable blessing, the very moment He returns. The master, pleased to find such faithful servants, will treat His servants as friends and equals, bidding them to sit at His own table and He will minister to their wants. Jesus is stressing *alertness*.

**(38.) He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn. But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready.**

- There is a **reward** for the alert **servants**.
- Now there is a new, one-sentence picture introduced:

**(39.) “Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would not permit his house to be broken into. (40) You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.”**

- So a **burglar broke** into a **house** because the head of the **house** didn't know His timing. The lesson is clear: the followers of the **Son of Man** must be **ready** because they do not know when He is **coming**.
- The wording of verse 40 points to the second **coming** of Christ. This was introduced in Luke 8. Every commentator we consulted says this is the **second** coming. The stories each have a forward look.

## **FAITHFUL AND UNFAITHFUL SERVANTS**

**(41.) Peter asked, “Lord, is that illustration just for us or for everyone?”**

- **Peter** was puzzled. Jesus did not answer **Peter** directly, but with another story:

**(42.) And the Lord replied, “A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. (43) If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. (44) I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. Now we hear of a steward or household manager who was assigned to feed the servants. He is blessed if the master comes and finds him following orders.**

- The main activity of the **sensible steward** was he was feeding the others. The master liked that.

- Among the **rewards** will be a promotion to be in **charge of all of his master owns**. The **master** wants faithfulness and responsibility on the part of His **stewards**.

**(45.) But what if the servant thinks, ‘My master won’t be back for a while,’ and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? (46) The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant in pieces and banish him with the unfaithful.**

- The story could have gone differently. The **servant** could have guessed that the **master** wasn't returning soon and begin **beating the other servants** and party for himself.
- Some see a reference to the religious leaders here.
- The surprise was the **master** returned unexpectedly.
- **Cut the servant in pieces** was not meant in its most literal form. The servant still had an assignment following the event. While Isaiah is thought to have been *literally* cut in half, this passage is indicating a punishment that separated the servant from his responsibilities and household.

**(47.) “And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn’t prepared and doesn’t carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. (48) But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.**

- What the **servant** knew entered the punishment picture. There will be more **punishment** for the disobedient *informed* than for the disobedient *uninformed*. So there will be degrees of punishment.
- When much is **entrusted** to a servant of God, much is required of him. God expects His servants to work at their capacity, not loaf.

## THE EFFECT OF CHRIST'S FIRST COMING

(49.) "I have come to set the world on fire, and I wish it were already burning! (50.) I have a terrible baptism of suffering ahead of me, and I am under a heavy burden until it is accomplished.



- Jesus came to bring conflicts because of who He was. One cannot be truly neutral as seen in verse 51 below.
- He was to be **baptized**, immersed, not in water, but **suffering**. He knew it was coming and was anxious for it to happen.

(51.) Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I have come to divide people against each other! (52) From now on families will be split apart, three in favor of me, and two against—or two in favor and three against. (53) 'Father will be divided against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'"

- Jesus did not come to bring **peace to the earth**, but **peace** with God, **peace** because one's sins are forgiven. Jesus knew that He was very controversial. People would divide over their allegiance to Him.
- Even families split up over allegiance to Jesus. Some accept Him; some do not. Sometimes it is the parents who profess faith in Christ and the children who reject Him. Sometimes the situation is reversed.
- We see the connection of marriage with the **law** of the land. Jesus speaks of **mother-in-law**. Marriage is more than a



private arrangement between two people. It involves the public, whether a written document or a party emblazoned in the memories of the community in places where there are few or no written records. **Vaughn**



**Elliott** says “In all cultures of all countries, as far as I am aware, there always are and always have been certain rules to clearly define what marriage is. Of course, it does not always involve city hall; it does not always involve paperwork. But, in whatever society, it always involves third parties. It also involves certain public acts which are recognized by everyone as the exact moment of the wedding.”

- Some believe that Jesus came to set up the universal brotherhood of man, but instead Jesus knew His message would **divide** families. There are cultures where all significant decisions are made by the father of the household or the leaders of the clan. A believer must be willing to break away from such a restriction.

## THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

**(54.) Then Jesus turned to the crowd and said, “When you see clouds beginning to form in the west, you say, ‘Here comes a shower.’ And you are right. (55) When the south wind blows, you say, ‘Today will be a scorcher.’ And it is.**

- **Jesus** now directs His words to the larger **crowd**, rather than just His disciples. The **crowds** were skilled at predicting a rain shower coming and they were skilled at predicting a hot day.

**“(56.) You fools! You know how to interpret the weather signs of the earth and sky, but you don’t know how to interpret the present times. (57) “Why can’t you decide for yourselves what is right?**

- They got the **weather** right, but could not understand the events that had been happening right under their noses for the past two

years. Jesus called these people **fools** because they claimed to be experts in religious things, but they were ignoring the great works of God being done in their midst by Jesus.

- The crowds are called upon to make their own individual decision about who Jesus is. They should not listen to their hypocritical religious leaders. They should learn to **decide for themselves**.
- *Believer's Bible Commentary* states it well:

Though they had normal human intelligence, they did not realize the important time which had arrived in human history. The Son of God had come to this earth, and was standing in their very midst. Heaven had never come so near before. But they did not know the time of their visitation. They had the intellectual capacity to know, but they did not have the will to know, and thus they were self-deluded.

**(58.) When you are on the way to court with your accuser, try to settle the matter before you get there. Otherwise, your accuser may drag you before the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, who will throw you into prison. (59) And if that happens, you won't be free again until you have paid the very last penny."**

- Now is time to **settle with your accuser** before being dragged **before the judge**. That may start a chain of events that you can't stop and you'll end up in **prison**.
- The point in verses 58-59 is that people needed to make a decision about Jesus. Every listener should make his peace with God now, before the final day of judgment.
- The issue with the opponent was over money as seen in verse 59. In these times, debtors were jailed when unable to pay their bills. Then they could never pay their debt.