



# The Road Less Traveled:

## Gospel of Luke.

In the middle section of the Gospel of Luke, we see a unique aspect of Jesus' ministry, his life and ministry on the road. We see him interact with strangers, answer difficult questions, and teach with boldness. Along the way, Jesus teaches his disciples—and us as well—what the Kingdom of God is and what it means to follow Him.

### WEEK FOUR

#### THE COMING KINGDOM

**Message Passage:** Luke 12:13-34

**Small Group Passage:** Luke 12:35-48 & Luke 16:19-31

#### TEACHING AND VIDEO NOTES

**Luke 12:13** *Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”*

The Old Testament laws covered most cases (Num 26–27; 33:54; 36; Deut 21:17), but sometimes an issue would arise that needed intervention in order to make a decision. Problems like this were often brought to rabbis for them to settle (see 10:38–42).<sup>1</sup>

#### **Luke 12:14-15**

It was not that what the man was asking about did not matter. The issue was the value the man ascribed to the matter. He was treating his coming inheritance as if that was all that mattered. Jesus wanted to set the stage for what we are ultimately to value.

#### **Luke 12:16-17**

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<sup>1</sup> Bruce Barton et al., *Life Application New Testament Commentary* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 2001), 308.

**What a great problem to have!** If this is your greatest problem, you have been blessed. But here is the issue: it is often the blessings that we receive from God that we turn into stumbling blocks and sinful idols. The issue is not with our possessions or blessings, but with our hearts.

**Luke 12:18** *"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."*

**Was this a bad thing to do? No. This was wise.** I have seen Christians use this passage to argue that savings accounts are sinful or unbiblical. That is not what this passage is arguing for. The issue resided in the man's motives, expressed in the next passage.

**Luke 12:19** *And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '*

The mindset was something like this: "When I have enough saved up and I have reached this level of wealth, I can then begin to enjoy life because I no longer have to work." His ultimate goal was comfort; therefore, his view of possessions was unbiblical.

**Luke 12:20-21**

**Jesus wanted to make it abundantly clear that if we live for this life, we have missed the point.** If we are busy trying to create our own kingdoms in this life, we have missed the supreme importance of the coming kingdom, an eternal kingdom.

**Luke 12:22-23**

**This life is about more than just the here and now and the kingdom I build for myself.** This life is meant to be invested in the coming kingdom. Therefore, I will not allow the worries of today, this life, to consume me.

**Luke 12:24-26**

Worry is a thief that steals our most valuable commodities: our time, happiness, and peace (all gifts from God). What is worse is that worry gives us nothing in return.

**Luke 12:27-28**

**Our eternity is the ultimate answer to our worries today.** God cares for the lilies that are here today and gone tomorrow. How much more will God provide for you, whom he gave his one and only Son for? At the heart of a life of worry is a deep-seated questioning of God's love and ability to provide for an abundantly better life to come.

***Luke 12:29-30***

**When we cast our worries at the feet of Jesus, we prove that we are different.** We are not like the rest of the world because this life is not our ultimate goal.

***Luke 12:31-34***

**Big Idea:** If we are busy trying to create our own kingdoms in this life, we have missed the supreme importance of the coming kingdom, an eternal kingdom.

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**Segway to Small Group:** If we are going to live with eternity in mind, we must live with an anticipation of Christ's return. In, small group, we are going to discuss how we go about doing that.

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. What does it look like to live with eternity in mind?

**READ:** Luke 12:35-48

**Leader Note (Context of Judgment):** Jesus refers to a coming judgment again and again in the following passage. It is important to differentiate between the two judgments that will happen after Jesus' second coming, the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Great White Throne Judgment. The Judgment Seat of Christ is for believers, focusing on rewards for their works done in faith (2 Cor 5:10, Luke 19:11-26). The Great White Throne Judgment is for unbelievers, resulting in condemnation and eternal separation from God (Rev 20:11-15). The following section of scripture focuses on believers and our accountability for our faithful obedience at the Judgment Seat of Christ. However, the reality of both judgments after Jesus' second coming should impact how we live our lives and seek to obey the Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20).

2. Vs. 35-40: What was Jesus trying to teach his disciples about being ready for his second coming?

**Leader Note:** Jesus clearly taught that while his second coming was certain, the time in which he would return was not. Therefore, Jesus' second coming is imminent. When I say Jesus' return is imminent, I mean that it is guaranteed. It could happen tomorrow or a thousand years from now. We do not know the time or the place (Matt 25:13, & Luke 12:40), but we have been guaranteed that He is coming again (John 14:13). Therefore, we must have an urgency to do all that Christ has commanded us to do (Rom 13:11).

**Leader Note (interpretation of vs 41-46):** Peter asks the valid question of whether what Jesus had just said applied to all believers or only the Apostles, and by extension, those in leadership. In the following verses, Jesus clarifies that all should live with an urgency that acknowledges Jesus' imminent return. However, those in leadership should also acknowledge that a higher degree of responsibility comes with stricter judgment and consequences (Jam 3:1 & Heb 13:17).

3. Vs. 42-43: Jesus taught that part of what it means to live in light of his promised second coming is to manage what he has entrusted us with faithfully. But what has God entrusted us with?

**Leader Note:** We have been entrusted with the Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20) and the Great Commandment (Matt 22:34-40). We have a job/task to do. We are also entrusted with being good stewards of every relationship, how we spend our time, and the use of our spiritual gifts to bless the body of Christ (the church).

4. Vs. 45: The servant chose to live as if the master was never returning because he assumed it would be a long time before he came home. We can easily adopt the same mindset in our own lives. What does it look like to live as if Christ is not coming again and eternity is not certain?

**Leader Note:** The servant lived a life of blatant sin because he did not acknowledge his master's imminent return. We should also understand that sitting idly by and refusing to live out our faith, using the spiritual gifts that God has entrusted to us, is likewise rebellion. Jesus teaches this very truth in Luke 19:11-27. A life of religious apathy is condemned by Jesus, yet socially accepted in our current culture.

5. Where do you feel the need to grow in better stewarding of what God has entrusted to you?

**READ:** Luke 16:19-31

6. What was Jesus trying to communicate through this parable?

**Leader Note:** If I were to put this into my own words, I would say Jesus is trying to teach us to value what is eternal. The rich man's wealth brought him no comfort in the end. Material things are just that, material things that do not last. What the rich man valued in the end was his family, who needed to turn away from making the same mistakes he had. However, he came to this realization too late. Likewise, we must value people over possessions in this life. In doing so, we value the kingdom to come over the here and now.

7. Based on this passage and all that we have discussed today, what does it look like to live with eternity at the forefront of our minds?

### **PRAYER TIME**

Today's discussion provides a great opportunity to pray that we may live with a sense of urgency and selflessness in our faith. That we would have a focus on the kingdom to come rather than all that this world does and does not have to offer.

### **DISMISS**