

Session 19: Jesus Teaches About Hypocrisy, Covetousness, Anxieties, Watchfulness, His Death, Repentance, and the Sabbath

Luke 12:1—13:21

Hypocrisy and Fearing God (Luke 12:1-7)

Matthew 16:6; 10:26ff	Mark 8:15; 4:2	Luke 12:1-7
<p>6 <i>And Jesus said to them, "Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."</i></p> <p>Matthew 10:26-32</p> <p>26 "Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed and hidden that will not be known.</p> <p>27 "What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.</p> <p>28 "And do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.</p> <p>29 "Are not two sparrows sold for an assarion? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.</p> <p>30 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.</p> <p>31 "So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.</p>	<p>15 <i>And He was giving orders to them, saying, "Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."</i></p> <p>Mark 4:22</p> <p>22 "For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it would come to light.</p>	<p>1 <i>At this time, after so many thousands of the crowd had gathered together that they were trampling on one another, He began saying to His disciples first, "Be on your guard for the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.</i></p> <p>2 <i>"But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed and hidden that will not be known.</i></p> <p>3 <i>"Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops.</i></p> <p>4 <i>"But I say to you, My friends, do not fear those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do.</i></p> <p>5 <i>"But I will show you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!</i></p> <p>6 <i>"Are not five sparrows sold for two assaria? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God.</i></p> <p>7 <i>"Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.</i></p>

Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

Matthew 10:32-33	Mark 8:35-38	Luke 12:8-10
<p>32 "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.</p> <p>33 "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.</p> <p>Matthew 12:31-32</p> <p>31 "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.</p> <p>32 "And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.</p>	<p>35 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.</p> <p>36 "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?</p> <p>37 "For what will a man give in exchange for his soul?</p> <p>38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."</p> <p>Mark 3:28-29</p> <p>28 "Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter;</p> <p>29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"</p>	<p>8 "And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God,</p> <p>9 but he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.</p> <p>10 "And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him, but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him.</p>

The Provision of the Holy Spirit to Empower Our Testimony

Matthew 10:19-20	Mark 13:11	Luke 12:11-12
<p>19 "But when they deliver you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given to you in that hour what you are to say. 20 "For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.</p>	<p>11 "And when they lead you away, delivering you up, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given to you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>11 "Now when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."</p>

The Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21)

- 13 *And someone from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me."*
- 14 *But He said to him, "Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?"*
- 15 *Then He said to them, "Watch out and be on your guard against every form of greed, for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."*
- 16 *And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive.*
- 17 *"And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?'*
- 18 *"Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.*
- 19 *'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry."*
- 20 *"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you prepared?'*
- 21 *"So is the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."*

Do Not Worry

Matthew 6:25-34	Luke 12:22-34
<p>19 <i>"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.</i></p> <p>20 <i>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;</i></p> <p>21 <i>for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.</i></p> <p>22 <i>"The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.</i></p> <p>23 <i>"But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!</i></p> <p>24 <i>"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.</i></p> <p>25 <i>"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to</i></p>	<p>22 <i>And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on.</i></p> <p>23 <i>"For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.</i></p> <p>24 <i>"Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!</i></p> <p>25 <i>"And which of you by worrying can add a single cubit to his life span?</i></p> <p>26 <i>"Therefore, if you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters?"</i></p> <p>27 <i>"Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.</i></p>

<p><i>what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?</i></p> <p>26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?</p> <p>27 "And which of you by worrying can add a single cubit to his life span?</p> <p>28 "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,</p> <p>29 yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.</p> <p>30 "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!</p> <p>31 "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?'</p> <p>32 "For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.</p> <p>33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.</p> <p>34 "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.</p>	<p>28 "But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You of little faith!</p> <p>29 "And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying.</p> <p>30 "For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek, but your Father knows that you need these things.</p> <p>31 "But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you.</p> <p>32 "Do not fear, little flock, for your Father is well pleased to give you the kingdom.</p> <p>33 "Sell your possessions and give it as charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys.</p> <p>34 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.</p>
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Be Ready for the Master's Return

Matthew 24:43-51	Mark 13:33-37	Luke 12:35-48
<p>43 "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have <u>stayed awake</u> and would not have allowed his</p>	<p>33 "See to it, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come.</p> <p>34 "It is like a man away on a journey, who, leaving his</p>	<p>35 "GIRD UP YOUR LOINS, and keep your lamps lit.</p> <p>36 "And be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks.</p> <p>37 "Blessed are those slaves whom the master will <u>find awake</u> when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to</p>

<p>house to be broken into.</p> <p>44 "For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.</p> <p>45 "Who then is the faithful and prudent slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?</p> <p>46 "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.</p> <p>"Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.</p> <p>48 "But if that evil slave says in his heart, 'My master is not coming for a long time,'</p> <p>49 and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards;</p> <p>50 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know,</p> <p>51 and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be</p>	<p>house and giving authority to his slaves—each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to <u>stay awake.</u></p> <p>35 "Therefore, <u>stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming,</u> whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—</p> <p>36 lest he come suddenly and find you sleeping.</p> <p>37 "And what I say to you I say to all, '<u>Stay awake!</u>'"</p>	<p>serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them.</p> <p>38 "Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.</p> <p>39 "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into.</p> <p>40 "You too, be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect."</p> <p>41 Now Peter said, "Lord, are You addressing this parable to us, or to everyone else as well?"</p> <p>42 And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and prudent steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?"</p> <p>43 "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.</p> <p>44 "Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.</p> <p>45 "But if that slave says in his heart, 'My master will be a long time in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk,</p> <p>46 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers.</p> <p>47 "And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many beatings,</p>
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<i>weeping and gnashing of teeth.</i>		<p><i>48 but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a beating, will receive but a few.</i></p> <p><i><u>From everyone who has been given much, much will be required, and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.</u></i></p>
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The Division Caused by Christ

Matthew 10:21, 34-36	Mark 13:12-13	Luke 12:49-53
<p><i>21 "And brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p><i>34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.</i></p> <p><i>35 "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW;</i></p> <p><i>36 and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.</i></p>	<p><i>12 "And brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.</i></p> <p><i>13 "And you will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.</i></p>	<p><i>49 "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!</i></p> <p><i>50 "But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is finished!</i></p> <p><i>51 "Do you think that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division;</i></p> <p><i>52 for from now on five members in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three.</i></p> <p><i>53 "They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."</i></p>

Interpreting the Signs

Matthew 16:2-3	Luke 12:54-56
<p><i>2 But He replied to them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.'</i></p> <p><i>3 "And in the morning, 'There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?</i></p>	<p><i>54 And He was also saying to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'A shower is coming,' and so it happens.</i></p> <p><i>55 "And when you see a south wind blowing, you say, 'It will be a hot day,' and it happens.</i></p> <p><i>56 "You hypocrites! You know how to examine the appearance of the earth and the sky, but why do you not examine this present time?</i></p>

Settling With Your Accuser

Matthew 5:25-26	Luke 12:57-59
<p>25 <i>"Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. 26"Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last quadrans.</i></p>	<p>57 <i>"And why do you not even judge for yourselves what is right? 58 "For while you are going with your opponent to appear before the magistrate, on your way there make an effort to settle with him, so that he may not drag you before the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. 59 "I say to you, you will not get out of there until you have paid the last lepton."</i></p>

Jesus Described Two Tragedies and Admonished All to Repent or Die (Luke 13:1-5)

- 1 *Now at that same time there were some present who were reporting to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.*
- 2 *And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you think that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered these things?*
- 3 *"I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.*
- 4 *"Or do you think that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse offenders than all the men who live in Jerusalem?*
- 5 *"I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."*

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9)

- 6 *And He was telling this parable: "A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came seeking fruit on it and did not find any.*
- 7 *"And he said to the vineyard-keeper, 'Behold, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?'*
- 8 *"And he answered and said to him, 'Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in manure,*
- 9 *and if it bears fruit next year, fine, but if not, cut it down.'"*

Jesus Healed a Crippled Woman on the Sabbath (Acts 13:10-17)

- 10 *And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.*
- 11 *And behold, there was a woman who for eighteen years had a sickness caused by a spirit, and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all.*
- 12 *But when Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your sickness."*
- 13 *And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made erect again and began glorifying God.*

- 14 *But the synagogue official, indignant because Jesus healed on the Sabbath, answered and was saying to the crowd, "There are six days in which work should be done; so come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day."*
- 15 *But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites, does not each of you on the Sabbath release his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead it away to water it?"*
- 16 *"And this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound for—behold—eighteen years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?"*
- 17 *And as He said this, all His opponents were being put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing over all the glorious things being done by Him.*

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:31-32	Mark 4:30-32	Luke 13:18-19
<p>31 He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field;</p> <p>32 and this is the smallest of all seeds, but when it is fully grown, it is the largest of the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES."</p>	<p>30 And He was saying, "How shall we compare the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it?"</p> <p>31 "It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smallest of all the seeds that are upon the soil,</p> <p>32 yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes largest of all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR can NEST UNDER ITS SHADE."</p>	<p>18 Therefore, He was saying, "What is the kingdom of God like, and to what shall I compare it?"</p> <p>19 "It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and threw into his own garden, and it grew and became a tree, and THE BIRDS OF THE AIR NESTED IN ITS BRANCHES."</p>

The Parable of the Yeast

Matthew 13:33	Luke 13:20-21
<p>33 He spoke another parable to them, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three sata of flour until it was all leavened.</p>	<p>20 And again He said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God?"</p> <p>21 "It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three sata of flour until it was all leavened."</p>

Memory Verse:

*"I tell you...unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."
Luke 13:5*

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus warned His disciples about the *“leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”* How damaging is hypocrisy in the 21st century church? What hypocrisy do you see in your own life?
2. In several texts, the Bible says, *“The fear of the Lord is wisdom”* (Job 28:28; Ps 111:10; Pro 1:7; 9:10). Do you *fear the Lord*? How does it affect your life?
3. In what ways do we *deny* Jesus?
4. Do you understand why *“Blasphemy against the Spirit”* is an unforgivable sin?
5. Have you ever experienced a situation in which you were a loss for words and the indwelling Holy Spirit gave you the ability to speak truth?
6. Are you *“rich toward God,”* or do you primarily depend upon your personal initiative and your physical resources?
7. The focus of our heart determines where we find our purpose, as well as our security. Why does a misplaced dependence produce anxiety?
8. Do you believe that the return of the Lord Jesus is imminent? Does the prospect of the *master’s* return affect how you live? Do you expect to be held accountable?
9. Have you experienced conflict as a result of your commitment to Christ? How have you responded?
10. Do you believe that you have the responsibility to do whatever you can to settle disputes?
11. Do you tend to think that physical disasters are the consequences of God’s displeasure and judgment upon sin?
12. As a disciple of Jesus, how productive are you? Do you believe that God expects you to produce *“fruit?”*
13. Jesus defied religious expectation and extended amazing grace to sinners. How willing are you to extend grace? What is the limit of your graciousness?
14. Jesus compared His *“kingdom”* to what a mustard seed will produce and to what happens when yeast is added to flour. How do these metaphors give you hope?