

# 'Luke' - Extra Teaching Points #21

## Luke 12:13-34 (NASB95)

### Luke 12:13-21

*"Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me."<sup>14</sup> But He said to him, "**Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?**"<sup>15</sup> Then He said to them, "**Beware, 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.**"<sup>16</sup> And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive."<sup>17</sup> "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?'"<sup>18</sup> "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.**"<sup>19</sup> "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.**"<sup>20</sup> "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?'"<sup>21</sup> "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

#### **Q: Why would Jesus refuse to hear this case?**

- Jesus was saying He wasn't here to do the work that God had set up the legal system of the government to do.
- Jesus was here to set up an alternative Kingdom; and in His Kingdom people aren't as concerned about worldly riches and lawsuits.

This man seemed to value money more than he valued peace with his brother. ([Matt 5:23-25, 40](#))

- The real danger wasn't poverty or injustice... but greed!

### Vs. 18

#### **Q: How did this man answer his own question?**

- Essentially, he came up with a retirement plan.

#### **Q: How should this man have answered his own question?**

- If he had more than he could store, he should have given to others who were need.

#### **Q: Does this mean that retirement is wrong?**

- No, but it does mean that selfishness and laziness is wrong.
  - Taking "your ease" and laying back, doing nothing, is wrong.
- We have opportunities for retirement in our society today that were not common in their day.
  - But retiring from working to support yourself is different from setting back and taking your ease.
  - As servants of the Lord, when we no longer have to work to support ourselves, we should use our time to work for Jesus.

### Luke 12:22-32

*"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."<sup>23</sup> "For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing."<sup>24</sup> "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!"<sup>25</sup> "And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life's span?"<sup>26</sup> "If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters?"<sup>27</sup> "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."<sup>28</sup> "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 men of little faith!"<sup>29</sup> "And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying."<sup>30</sup> "For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things."<sup>31</sup> "But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you."<sup>32</sup> "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom."*

Jesus now begins to talk about issues of survival, not just *quality of life* issues.

### Q: Worry is a sin. Why?

- Worry is a sin because it is the opposite of faith ([Heb. 11:1](#)).
  - In [Matt. 6:30](#), Jesus addresses those who worry, as those with little faith.
- **Worrying is caused by a lack of faith in God.**
  - To the degree you have faith, you don't worry.
  - To the degree you worry, you don't have faith.

Worry is the same thing as being anxious ([Phil. 4:6](#)).

- [Phil. 4:4-7](#) *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*
  - Worry, like all sins, is a choice.
  - Just telling someone to stop worrying won't necessarily help them stop; but redirecting their worry into God's hands can!

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### Extra Thoughts on Worry:

Some might be critical of Jesus' argument citing that birds sometimes starve; but no bird ever starves until God wants it to for His purposes ([Matt. 10:29](#), [Luke 12:6](#)).

- Jesus is starting from the assumption that you want the will of God.
  - If you want the will of God to be done, then don't worry... He'll take care of all the details.
  - If God wants you alive, He knows how to do that.
  - He does that with birds and grass, and He knows how to do that with you too.
- **Worry starts kicking in when we are not so set on God's will being done.**
  - **Worry hits when we start wanting *our* will to be done.**

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Jesus gives us many good reasons not to worry, and they are all about faith.

### [Vs. 22](#) Jesus' first argument is from greater to lesser.

- **God's given you the greater; won't He give you the lesser?**
  - Do you have life? Yes. Where did you get that? God.
  - Do you have a body? Yes. Where did you get that? Got that from God too.
  - Ok, you got life and a body from God. Isn't life greater than food, and a body greater than clothing?
  - If God has given you life and a body – which are big deals – won't He also give you food and clothing?
  - Those are not difficult things for Him to do, compared to giving you life and a body.
  - If God has invested in you – enough to give you life and a body – do you think He's not going to supply you with food and clothing?

### [Vs. 24](#) Jesus' second argument is from lesser to greater.

- The birds and the grass are lesser than you.
- God takes care of them; won't He take care of you?

### [Vs. 25](#) Jesus' third argument against worrying is "What good will it do?"

- Worry is usually a mindset that concerns itself about things beyond our control.

### [Vs. 28-30](#) Jesus' fifth argument against worrying is that God is already on the job.

- God already knows the things you need, and is taking care of it.
  - God knew what you needed, probably before *you* knew what you needed.
- **If God is on the job, and knows what you need, then why do you need to worry about it?**

**Vs. 31 Jesus' 6th argument against worry is that worry is unnecessary if you are seeking the Kingdom of God.**

- If you are seeking the Kingdom of God, all the other necessary things will be given to you.
- **Worrying is putting your energies to work in the wrong direction.**
  - If you put your energies into seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, all the other things will come to you in the course of doing that.
- **Worry is appropriate for non-Christians!**
  - They are on their own.
    - They have a different kingdom and a different King.
  - **It is inappropriate for people who know God to engage in an activity that is only appropriate for those who don't know God.**
    - When a Christian worries, it is an insult to God.
    - The Christian who worries, either **doesn't trust God's ability**, or **questions God's will**.

**Luke 12:33-34**

*"Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys." <sup>34</sup> "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

**Q: Is there anything wrong with having possessions?**

- One way to understand Jesus' command, is to reject anything other than what you need for survival.
  - Some call this a vow of poverty.
  - The disciples didn't seem to live this way (Peter owned a house).
    - They were not rich men, but they had more than they needed for one day at a time.
    - [In 1Tim. 6:17-19](#), the rich aren't told to *surrender* their wealth, but to *not trust* their wealth.
    - Paul even says God gives us things to enjoy ([vs. 17](#)).
- The other way to understand Jesus' command, is to consider that He is using hyperbole.

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**Extra thoughts on Treasure:**

**A concern for treasures has got to be a concern for your heart.**

- This seems to be the focus in the beatitudes:
  - *Blessed are the pure in heart,*
  - *Blessed are the poor in spirit.*
- This seems to be the focus in the law:
  - Don't commit murder, but also your heart shouldn't commit murder.
  - Don't commit adultery, but also your heart shouldn't commit adultery.
  - Your religious deeds should be done from the heart, and not from a desire to be seen by men.

**Jesus is after 'heart religion'—the internal... not just the externals.**

- If you lay up treasures on earth, your heart will be in those treasures here on earth. If you lay up treasures in heaven, your heart will be in those treasures in heaven.
  - [Prov. 4:21](#) says the heart is the most important thing to guard.
  - [1John 2:15-17](#) says if we love the world, we don't love the Father.

**To set your heart on things of this world is to be a fool!**

- We condition and train our hearts to love, crave, and pursue what we value.
  - If you have an old car you don't value much, you tend not to worry about it much.
  - But if you buy a new, expensive car, you tend to be very protective, possessive, and focused on it more than you were the old one.
  - Your heart gets all caught up with worries and anxieties about this 'thing'.
- If you have few things on earth, then your heart will not be taken up with things on earth.

## Follow Up Assignment

Q: What forms of greed do you struggle with?

- How can you guard yourself against this?

Q: How much do you worry? What do you worry about?

- Which of Jesus' arguments against worrying speaks loudest to you?

Q: Where is your treasure?

- Where do you spend most of your time and money? (These two will usually point to what you really treasure.)