



## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

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### LESSON 11 – STUDY QUESTIONS LUKE 12:8-59

#### DAY ONE

1. Was there a verse or thought from the Reflection or Commentary from last week's lesson (Lesson 10, [Luke 11:5-12:7](#)) that remained with you this week as you prayed?

#### Read Luke 12:8-12

2a. As we begin this week's study, we continue to read of Jesus preaching to the large crowd. In today's lesson He exhorted and encouraged His followers. For those who acknowledge Him (before others), what did Jesus say will happen (verse 8)?

b. In verse 9 Jesus stated the result for those who deny Him before others. What will happen to them?

3. In verse 10 Jesus said that everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven. Who will not be forgiven?

**NOTE:** Gospel readers have wondered at the meaning of these words, fearing that they have committed an unpardonable sin. Pope John Paul II, among others, has stated in response to this fear, that there are no limits to the mercy of God. Deliberately and stubbornly rejecting the forgiveness of sins and the salvation offered by the Holy Spirit can lead to eternal loss. [John Paul II, *Dominum et Vivificantem*, No. 46]

4. What did Jesus tell them not to worry about in verse 11?

5a. In verse 12 what is the encouragement that Jesus gave us regarding how we are to defend ourselves or what we are to say?

b. Read and record Exodus 4:12 in which we see that God prepares us for the tasks for which we are called.

6. CONNECTION: Speaking before synagogues, rulers, authorities or public speaking of any kind is one of the things most feared by the modern person, above death by snakebite. Yet this passage says that if we are called to speak before others we can trust the Holy Spirit to provide the exact words we need to say at the exact time. Staying in prayer helps us to trust in the Holy Spirit, giving us the courage to speak out for our faith. If we are open to and obedient to God's commands He can turn the things we most fear (such as public speaking!) into a great joy. Share with your small group a time that you had to speak in public and the Holy Spirit gave you the right words.

Read and record Psalm 30:11-12 and remember to speak out with trust in the Lord.

**THINK:** As we study the Gospel of Luke, is there a faith story that you may be called to "speak out" and share with your Cornerstone branch in a Focus?

## **DAY TWO**

**Read Luke 12:13-21**

7a. As today's lesson begins, someone in the crowd asked Jesus to make his brother divide the family inheritance with him (verse 13). What did Jesus answer from verse 14?

b. Jesus added a warning in verse 15. Record the warning and the reason for it.

8a. In order to illustrate this warning Jesus told them a parable about a rich man whose land produced abundantly (verse 16). What was this man's dilemma from verse 17?

b. Rather than share what he had, what did he decide to do (verse 18)?

9. The rich man relied on his wealth as the basis for his security. What did he say to himself to justify his actions (verse 19)?

10. But God had a different idea. What bad news did He share with the rich fool, who thought he had it made (verse 20)?

11a. Jesus ended the parable with a conclusion (verse 21). Summarize it in your own words.

b. Read Tobit 4:7-9 and record one of the verses from this beautiful Old Testament book that reflects today's lesson.

12. CONNECTION: One's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions! Wise words! And yet of course we want to be safe and comfortable. We would even like to relax, eat, drink and be merry! How striking to see ourselves in this parable and then to be brought up short by Jesus' words - Jesus, Who sees the big picture, Who knows what will bring us true joy, now and on that coming day when we will leave every possession behind. What are some of the non-earthly treasures that you value the most and bring you the most joy? Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read and record what the prophet tells us about real treasure in Malachi 3:10.

### **DAY THREE**

**Read Luke 12:22-31**

13. In today's lesson Jesus continued to talk about the importance of spiritual riches with some of the most beautiful words of the Bible. Record verses 22-23.

14a. To illustrate His point Jesus asked His listeners to consider the ravens, who neither sow nor reap, have neither storehouse nor barn, yet God feeds them. How does Jesus compare the ravens with human beings (second sentence of verse 24)?

b. Ravens are scavengers and were considered disgusting birds to Gentile Greeks as well as the Jews. What does this say to you about how God cares for you?

15. In verses 25-26 Jesus asked two questions. Record these verses. (Good memory verses)

16a. Read and record verse 27. (Good memory verse)

b. In verse 28 Jesus assured the "men of little faith" that just as God cares so beautifully for the grass of the field, which is there for a brief moment in time, so much more does He care for them. How did He instruct them in verse 29?

17. In verses 30-31 Jesus reminded His listeners that Israel was held to a higher standard of faith in God. What did He tell them?

18. CONNECTION: Jesus illustrated a lesson on the trustworthiness and providence of God by referring His listeners to nature as proof of God's brilliant care and design for us. He pointed out that ravens (insignificant birds) are wonderfully provided for in the order of things. Without storehouses or crops they live and fly and thrive. He pointed out the lilies of the field, a kind of simple grass that bloomed in the fields of Israel, destined for the furnace, but breathtaking to behold. By taking the time to admire God's handiwork, His overflowing grace and love will become clearer to us. Have you spent time marveling at nature recently? Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read and record Job 38:31 in which God asked Job, His creature, a question, and let it lead you to contemplate the awesomeness of our Creator.

#### **DAY FOUR**

**Read Luke 12:32-40**

19a. In verse 32 Jesus reassured His listeners in shepherd's terms that the kingdom of God is within reach for them. Record His words here.

b. In verse 33 He exhorted them to sell their possessions and give alms. Read the rest of His advice to them in verse 33 and summarize it briefly.

20. Record verse 34 and comment on what it means to you. (Good memory verse)

21a. In verses 35-38 Jesus exhorted his followers to be alert like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet late at night so they could open the door for him as soon as he knocks. According to verse 37 what will happen to the servants whom the master finds alert?

b. How did Jesus describe the slaves whose master finds them alert in the middle of the night or especially near dawn (verse 38)?

22a. In verse 39 Jesus then turned to the image of a thief coming to rob the house. If the master knew what time the thief was coming, what would he have done?

b. The end of our life may come at an unexpected time. How do Jesus' words in this verse apply to us?

23. How did Jesus apply that example to his listeners in verse 40?

24. CONNECTION: We try to care for our earthly treasures, but often, when we try to save "valuable" things we find them eaten by moths, or otherwise deteriorated. Our desire to "keep" things is counteracted by natural forces such as time, water, rust, bugs etc. In this passage Jesus gave us an alternative to hoarding treasure on earth. He told us that by giving alms to the poor we can make "purses" of unending treasure in heaven. These purses cannot be stolen by thieves. They cannot rot or get ruined by water damage. We do not have to

insure them. Have you lost something you thought was important only to realize it was just a "thing?" Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read Haggai 2:6-8 and record one of the verses.

#### **DAY FIVE**

**Read Luke 12:41-48**

25. Today's lesson begins with Peter asking Jesus if His lesson regarding being prepared for the coming of the Son of Man was for the apostles or for everyone. Jesus answered in another parable. What question did He ask in verse 42?

26. What did Jesus then say about the slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives from verses 43 and 44?

27a. In verse 45 Jesus described another kind of slave, one who thinks his master is delayed and takes advantage. In your own words, what does that slave think and do?

b. What will happen to that slave when "the master of that slave comes on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know"?

28. In verse 47 and the beginning of verse 48, Jesus described two slaves who did the wrong thing - one who understood what was expected and one who did not. What was to happen to each of these?

29. At the end of verse 48, Jesus drew a moral from these situations. Read and record this familiar verse.

30. CONNECTION: In this parable Jesus describes three servants, distinguished by their knowledge of expectations and their actions. The first servant knows what is expected and does it. He is blessed and honored with more responsibility. The other two fail in different ways and with different consequences. The one who knew what he was supposed to do and misbehaved anyway was punished more severely than the one who did not know what he was supposed to do. Similarly, in our justice system crimes that are intentional earn a more severe punishment. Our daily decisions require us to consider our behavior and pray to discern what is right and wrong. Share an example with your small group.

Read Deuteronomy 5:1-22 and write a prayer today asking God to help you be prepared for His coming.

#### **DAY SIX**

**Read Luke 12:49-59**

31a. In today's lesson Jesus' tone became more urgent. Record verse 49.

b. In verse 50 Jesus continued His plaintive message. Imagine His distress! What did He say?

32a. Record Jesus' surprising question and answer in verse 51.

b. In verses 52 and 53 Jesus described how His message will divide households three against two and two against three. List the painful divisions He foretold between those who are closest to each other in verse 53 and think how awful this is.

33a. In verses 54-56 Jesus uses the crowds' understanding of the nature of weather (a cloud in the west indicating rain and a south wind bringing heat) to challenge them as to why they don't know how to interpret the present time. He even calls them hypocrites. In your own words, what do you think He is saying to them?

b. Record the question Jesus asked of them in verse 57.

34. To illustrate His point Jesus gave an example in verse 58 of the need for discernment when they are accused by a magistrate. For what reason did Jesus suggest they make an effort to settle the case with their accuser?

35. What will the result be in verse 59?

36. CONNECTION: Jesus did not hide the price of discipleship for His followers, even warning them that families would be divided. He also warned them that they would be held accountable for things they should be able to discern. His warnings apply to us as well. We have His example to follow and we have the Holy Spirit to help us discern right from wrong. We have been given a great gift, and the Giver expects it to transform all of our lives. How do you see this transformation affecting Christian behavior in various aspects of your life? Consider its impact on family, community, government, law ... and even our feelings toward other nations and cultures. Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read and record Romans 12:2 and write a prayer today asking God to continue to transform you to His will.

After completing this lesson, read pages 85-91 in the *The Gospel According to Luke* by Michael F. Patella, O.S.B. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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