

Luke Lesson 12

Luke Chapter 12

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Memory verses for this week: *1 Cor 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

Introduction: We continue our study of the book of Luke this week as we continue in chapter 12. Last week, we studied the last half of Chapter 11 where Jesus taught the people that there would be no sign given unto them, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. He taught on the parable of the lighted candle, and closed pronouncing woes upon the religious lawyers who were not helping the people, but rather lading them with greater burdens. We begin this weeks study with a warning about the leaven of the Pharisees.

I. Jesus Warns of the Leaven of the Pharisees

Luke 12:1 In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

Luke 12:2 For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.

Luke 12:3 Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.

Chapter 12 opens with a large number of people (an innumerable multitude is says) coming out to hear Jesus teach. He tells them to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees. We know leaven speaks of sin, and the Pharisees were people who spoke correct religious words, but inside were full of hypocrisy. God wants us to be both pure on the outside and the inside. He wasn't us to first clean out the inside (which takes salvation through Jesus Christ), and then to live the Godly life day by day. He warns them that nothing will be covered one day. All shall be revealed and nothing hid.

All of our negative words and deeds will be known one day. This should give us a reason to temper our tongues and be careful. Even negative thoughts should be put from us. It says that what was spoken in darkness will be heard in the light, and what we said in the closet will be proclaimed upon the housetops.

Luke 12:4 And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

Luke 12:5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

Why did Jesus call these people 'my friends'? It was because he cared about those people and they were truly his friends. God has a personal interest in every one of them, and he cares for you and I with a GREAT, GREAT love. Jesus is that friend that sticks closer than a brother.

Prov 18:24 A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

John 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Jesus warned the people to not fear the one who could kill the body, but rather fear the one who can cast your soul into hell. In other words, fear God. Don't be overly concerned with the people around you. Even those who are mean and may persecute you. They may can destroy this earthly tabernacle, but they can't touch the soul. To die a martyr's death would be the greatest way to leave this world.

Luke 12:6 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

Luke 12:7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Luke 12:8 Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

So many times we forget that God takes care of even the sparrows. I have a bird feeder and a bird bath in my back yard, and I really enjoy watching the birds flock in there to get food and water. This time of year we get a lot of doves and crows to go along with the sparrows and blue birds. And the humming birds are the most adorable of birds to me.

As you watch those wings flutter at tremendous speed, it makes me realize how marvelous are God's creations. And God takes care of those little animals. If the very hairs of our head are all numbered, then we need to know that God truly loves and takes care of us. Verse 8 has a promise that if we confess Jesus before men here on earth, one day Jesus will confess us before the angels of God.

In the King James Study Bible, they had a good comment about the security of the believer in Jesus Christ.

But the child of God is secure in Christ, both now and forever. Nothing can ever harm a believer in this life, apart from the permission of God according to His perfect will. i

Luke 12:9 But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.

Luke 12:10 And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.

It is a serious thing to deny Christ before men. He says if we deny Christ before men, that one day he will deny us before the angels of God. Verse 10 speaks of the most horrible sin recorded in the Word of God. Blaspheming the Holy Spirit is the one sin that can not be forgiven. This means that when we hear the Gospel preached, and our heart is pricked with our sin, and the Holy Spirit draws us to God to be saved, that we reject that calling and refuse to be saved. That means we are turning against the Holy Spirit, and there is no forgiveness of that sin.

If you are lost, and you hear the Gospel and the call of the Spirit, you need to turn to Jesus to be saved while there is still time. In this life, there is no sin that can't be forgiven. We can be the worst thief, a person who has murdered others and still have our sins forgiven. We may have been a drunk, spoke evil of others, took God's name in vain, but these are all things that can be atoned for by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. But to reject the testimony of God is to deliberately sin against the Holy Ghost. Going out of this life without Jesus means to be separated from God forever. Don't be guilty of blaspheming the Holy Ghost.

Luke 12:11 And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say:

Luke 12:12 For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

Jesus tells His disciples that the same Holy Spirit would be the one that enabled them to speak in that hour. They might not know what to speak when brought before the authorities, but through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they would be able to speak boldly.

Matthew Henry said this about verses 11 and 12.

iJerry Falwell, executive editor; Edward E. Hinson and Michael Kroll Woodrow, general editors, *KJV Bible commentary [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1994.

Whatever trials they should be called out to, they should be sufficiently furnished for them, and honorably brought through them, v. 11, 12. The faithful martyr for Christ has not only *sufferings* to *undergo*, but a *testimony* to *bear*, a *good confession* to *witness*, and is concerned to do that *well*, so that the cause of Christ may not suffer, though he suffer for it; and, if this be his care, let him cast it upon God: "When they *bring you into the synagogues*, before church-rulers, before the Jewish courts, or before *magistrates and powers*, Gentile rulers, rulers in the state, to be examined about your doctrine, what it is, and what the proof of it, *take no thought what ye shall answer*," [1.] "That you may *save yourselves*. Do not study by what art or rhetoric to mollify your judges, or by what tricks in law to bring yourselves off; if it be the will of God that you should come off, and your time is not yet come, he will bring it about effectually." [2.] "That you may *serve your Master*; aim at this, but do not perplex yourselves about it, for *the Holy Ghost*, as a Spirit of wisdom, *shall teach you what you ought to say*, and how to say it, so that it may be for the honour of God and his cause." ii

II. The Sin and Danger of Covetousness

Luke 12:13 And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

Luke 12:14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

One in this company comes to Jesus and asks him to speak to his brother about dividing the inheritance with him. Jesus appears to note a spirit of covetousness in the man, and says that he is not a judge or a divider of property. While things of this life many times seem so important to us, these are minor things in the overall plan of the Lord. Certainly God will help us through all matters of life, but we are not to be overwhelmed by the things we face. And most of all, we should not covet what others have.

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Jesus warns against covetousness. Covetousness means we have a desire to grasp something that God has withheld from us though he may have given it to others. We need to be content with our situation as it is and be content with the things we have. Paul told the Philipians that he had learned to do that.

Phil 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

iiHenry, Matthew, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible*, (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers) 1997.

Phil 4:12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Phil 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Jesus says that a man's life is a lot more than the abundance of things that he acquires in this life. The happiest person is not the one with the most possessions, but the man who gives the most. A person who has learned to share with others the good things God has entrusted to him is a happy person indeed. We won't take anything with us, but we can sure give in this life and be blessed when we come to God one day due to the rewards. I am reading an excellent book, and the author said the happiest man is the one whose pleasures are the least expensive. Perhaps that is worldly thinking to some regard, but when the things God gives us satisfy us, it is Godly thinking. Nothing is greater than the pure and perfect gifts from above.

Luke 12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

Luke 12:17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

Luke 12:18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

Luke 12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Luke 12:21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

This fellow had a lot going for him, and his plans were not so bad except for one major failure. No where did he consider God in his plans. This man had been blessed with so many worldly treasures but he never seemed to ever think about how these things should be used to the glory of the Lord. There is nothing wrong with making plans to have proper provision for the future. But we should consult the Lord in all of our decisions. Because the man left God out of his plans, God calls the man a fool.

Any time we lay up treasures for ourselves and are not rich toward God, we can be like this man. Are we all giving our tithes and offerings like we should? One tenth of our income truly belongs to the Lord, and we need to give cheerfully and out of a heart of liberality. Are we laying up treasures for ourselves down here on earth, or do we give like we should and build up treasures in heaven where there is nothing that can take away the reward. We truly should give our tithe and make special offerings for things like missions.

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

III. Living Without Anxiety

Luke 12:22 And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

Luke 12:23 The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.

In this hour, so many men are concerned only for what there is in it for them. Jesus wants us to not worry about our life, but let Him provide our daily provisions. We so many times worry about what we are going to eat and what we are going to wear, but life is much more than food and clothing. Jesus tells us to not worry about what we will eat or wear.

Luke 12:24 Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

Luke 12:25 And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?

Luke 12:26 If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?

Christ tells us to look at the ravens as an illustration of how God will provide for us if we will but look to him and be obedient children. I've never seen a raven out with a hoe digging up the ground to plant some seed. But while he never sows a thing, nor reaps the harvest, God provides for him. It says "God feedeth them." I have marvelled in the winter when a pickup may go down the road with bales of hay, and some will fall out and the seed scatter across the ground. Then here come the birds. How do they happen along just where that feed falls off the truck? I wonder? Smile... I think we know, it is God that feeds them.

And God asks us a simple question, "How much more are ye better than the fowls?" MUCH MORE is the answer. God loves His children just as you and I love our children and grandchildren. Verse 25 points out that we can't add an inch to our height. We grow according to the Lord's plan as we grow from a child to a grown adult. If we can trust him in our growth, why can't we trust him for his provision? If he takes care of the big things, he will sure take care of the small ones too.

Luke 12:27 Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Luke 12:28 If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Jesus uses the lilies of the field as an example of God's ability to provide for us. David said in the Psalms that he had never seen the righteous forsaken or his seed begging bread. How about you? I have not.

Psa 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Psa 37:26 He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.

J. Vernon McGee made these comments about these verses.

Our Lord said, "Consider the lilies, how they grow." Flowers are saying a lot to us today: "My, you human beings certainly go to a great deal of trouble to take care of your bodies. You use lotions, sprays, ointments, and perfume, among other things upon your bodies, and then you clothe them. Even after you are all perfumed and dressed up, you cannot compare to the beauty of a flower." What a message, friend. Some of us need to depend upon God a little bit more.

If then God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? [Luke 12:28].

This is not to encourage indolence. Birds cannot build barns; flowers cannot spin. But man can. God intends him to use the ability He gave him—but not to live as if the exercise of these abilities is all there is to life.

Our world is engaged in commerce. Half of the world will spend its heart's blood in building a better mouse trap while the other half will go to the ends of the earth to buy the mouse trap. Both groups are forgetting there is a God in heaven and that all men have an eternal soul.

All men will one day stand before the awful presence of God, stripped of the "things" that occupied his life on earth. He will have no treasure up there. He lived without God; he will die without God.

Luke 12:29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

Luke 12:30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

Luke 12:31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Luke 12:33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

Luke 12:34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

If we would seek first things first, we would have peace of mind when it comes to our daily provisions. God knows all about our need for food and clothing. If we are willing to put Him first in our lives, be sure God will provide all the things we need. Many times we go all out for what we want instead of using the money with which God has blessed us for what we need. He warns us to put our treasures in heaven. Where is your treasure? Is down here on earth, or do you invest for the day to come. What efforts we put into God's work will last into eternity. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

IV. Waiting for the Lord's Return

Luke 12:35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

Luke 12:36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

God wants us to be people not only waiting for their Lord, but prepared and showing forth good works at His coming. The language is figurative in these verses. The bridegroom at the wedding ceremony would go forth to meet his bride in the days of Christ. They would return to his own home. His friends would be attired and waiting. In other words, their loins would be girded about and their lights would be burning as they went out to meet the bridegroom. The light of testimony is to be kept shining during the time of our Lord's personal absence.

The loins in verse 35 speak of the 'loins of the mind'.

1 Pet 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

The girdle is the truth of God.

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Eph 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

In these days, they wore long flowing robes that were held in place with a girdle. We are to keep every thought captive to the obedience of Christ it says in II Corinthians 10:5.

2 Cor 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Just as those friends of the Eastern bridegroom waited eagerly for him to bring his bride back home where they could rejoice together, we are to maintain an attitude of expectancy while we wait for the return of our Savior. We don't know when he will return, so we should be waiting in expectancy each moment. He truly might come today.

Luke 12:37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

If we are true disciples of the Lord and are eagerly awaiting his coming, it tends to sanctify us as we wait for His return. We are called to serve in faithfulness today. By serving in faith, we will one day reign with Him.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

2 Tim 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

2 Tim 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

Rev 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Luke 12:38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

Luke 12:39 And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.

Luke 12:40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

The Roman watch was three hours long. The night was divided into four watches. If the Lord came in the second watch it would still be dark, but whichever time he comes, if he finds his faithful servants watching they will be blessed. He goes on to explain that if the man of the house had know what time the thief was going to break in, he would have been waiting on him. He would not have been taken by surprise and would have guarded his home.

Our Lord wants us to be always alert since we do not know what hour He will return. To the unwatchful ones, the Lord's return will be unexpected and unwelcome. It will come as a thief in the night. We are told in verse 40 that he comes in an hour we think not.

Mat 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

Mat 25:2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

Mat 25:3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

Mat 25:4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Mat 25:5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

Mat 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Mat 25:7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

Mat 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

Mat 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Mat 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Mat 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

Mat 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

In the parable of the virgins with the lamps, we find that some of them did not have oil. The oil speaks of the Holy Spirit. When the bridegroom came, they asked that those who had oil share it with them, but they told them no. They left to buy oil, and when they returned, they had missed the bridegroom. It will be like that on the day Christ returns. If we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us due to being saved, we will be ready to go. Those who have put it off will be unprepared.

Matthew Henry said this about these verses on the bridegroom.

Christ our Master, though now *gone from us*, will *return again*, return from *the wedding*, from *solemnizing* the nuptials abroad, to *complete* them at home. Christ's servants are now in a state of expectation, *looking for their Master's glorious appearing*, and doing every thing with an eye to *that*, and in order to *that*. He will *come* to take cognizance of his servants, and, that being a *critical day*, they shall either stay with him or be turned out of doors, according as they are found in that day.

3. The time of our Master's return is uncertain; it will be *in the night*, it will be *far* in the night, when he has long *deferred* his coming, and when many have done looking for him; in the *second watch*, just before midnight, or in the *third watch*, next after midnight, v. 38. His coming to us, at our death, is uncertain, and to many it will be a great surprise; for *the Son of Man cometh at an hour that ye think not* (v. 40), without giving notice beforehand. This bespeaks not only the uncertainty of the time of his coming, but the prevailing security of the greatest part of men, who are *unthinking*, and altogether regardless of the notices given them, so that, whenever he comes, it is *in an hour that they think not*. iii

Luke 12:41 Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?

Peter asked Christ whether this illustration was used for themselves alone or for all of Christ's disciples. The answer he gives shows that it is intended for all professed believers to the end of the dispensation.

V. Parable of the Steward and His Servants

Luke 12:42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

Luke 12:43 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Luke 12:44 Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

The Lord promises to reward each faithful servant when He returns. He pronounces blessing on the servant whom He will find so doing at His return. There will be special blessings to the servants who are watching and are faithful to God.

iiiHenry, Matthew, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible*, (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers) 1997.

Luke 12:45 But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;

Luke 12:46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

Luke 12:47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

Luke 12:48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Christ tells of judgment that will be meted out in that day. God will not be unrighteous in dealing with anyone. Those who are not prepared won't have a second chance to get it right. Those who knew the Lord's will and did it not will be punished more than those who knew not. What is God's will for all men?

1 Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

1 Tim 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

1 Tim 2:6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Scripture teaches us that responsibility and privilege go together. In our dealings with others, we recognize that here on earth. When God commits any talent, ability, or knowledge of truth to His servants, he wants it used to His honor and glory. To fail to act in accordance with the revealed will of God will cause us to suffer loss when we are called to give an account of our stewardship at the judgment seat of Christ. On that day, all of our works will be tested by the fire of God's holiness.

1 Cor 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

1 Cor 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

1 Cor 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

1 Cor 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1 Cor 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

VI. Christ is a Divider of Men

Luke 12:49 I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?

The symbol of fire speaks of God acting in judgment against sin. Jesus told his followers that he came not to condemn men, but to save them. Yet the world puts itself in the place of condemnation by rejecting Him.

John 12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

John 12:47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

John 12:48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Rom 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Luke 12:50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

Luke 12:51 Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:

Luke 12:52 For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.

Luke 12:53 The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

The baptism Jesus speaks of here in verse 50 is the divine judgment which he was to undergo on the cross of Calvary. His own soul was deeply moved as He looked forward to the cross and the judgment of sin that He was to endure there. There on the cross of Calvary, Jesus divided the world. Some will believe, others will reject the message of salvation. He warns how that five in a house will be divided 2 against 3. Families will be divided because of Christ. One of the ladies I have met that has really moved me is Mrs. Isaacs of the singing Isaacs

group. She was born a Jew, and when she accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, none of her family would have anything to do with her. But she still loves her family and tries to reach them for Christ. The reason there is so much division is due to people's attitudes towards Jesus Christ. Those who love Him honor and respect Him. Those who reject Him want nothing to do with Him. They refuse to have him reign over their lives.

Luke 12:54 And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is.

Luke 12:55 And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass.

Luke 12:56 Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?

Jesus points out how the people could look at the sky and discern what was about to happen with the weather. But those same ones could not see the signs of the Lord and what was about to come on earth. They had the Scriptures of the prophets in their hands, yet they seemed to not understand anything about Christ's coming. They could not see the signs being fulfilled all about them.

Luke 12:57 Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right?

Luke 12:58 When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, as thou art in the way, give diligence that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and the officer cast thee into prison.

Luke 12:59 I tell thee, thou shalt not depart thence, till thou hast paid the very last mite.

These verses speak of how things in this life can be settled out of court. We had better get things settled in this life about salvation. It will be too late to settle matters at the judgment seat of Christ for the Christian. You will suffer loss if you wait to confess sin and set things right with God. If you are lost, there will be no hope for the sinner at the Great White Throne Judgment of God. All will hear him cast them into the flames of Hell. If you want to be saved, you must do it in this life.

J Vernon McGee said this about peace coming on earth.

We need to realize and recognize what kind of world we are living in. Man thinks he is big enough and good enough to bring peace on the earth. This is a fallacy—man is a warmonger. The United Nations was formed to bring peace and to keep peace on earth. May I say, the United Nations is one of the best *fighting* arenas in

the world today! We need to realize that until Christ comes there can be no real peace. iv

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.

ivJ. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible commentary [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1981 by J. Vernon McGee.