

[With the Unbelievers] / Gospel of Luke Chapter Twelve

~ The Holy Spirit is revealing tremendous new truths to us in this section of Scripture as we continue to examine the Lord Jesus Christ's earthly ministry in our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. Irrespective of how many times we have plowed a field, we always have a new and interesting yield. This field is no different as we will discover several new things in Scripture. The new spiritual revelations are the things we will emphasize as we move forward; and we will simply bi-pass those things that we have previously considered in other Gospel accounts with virtually no comment at all....

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.

~ In this report, we see Jesus at the absolute zenith of His ministry on earth in terms of people following Him. This one verse represents myriad thousands of blind, lame, sick – not to mention death-restoration requests. The Gospel records clearly indicate we're not talking about one or two people. No, friends, this mob is huge - and extremely dangerous to Jesus and His disciples.

Now, I need everyone to read verse one again very carefully; because, if the Gospel is represented by "leaven," then God is calling the Gospel hypocrisy. If you hold a theology that states the Gospel is leaven, then your theology will end in a tragic mess. We have established that leaven only represents evil in Scripture. It is an axiom of understanding from here forward in our safari. Leaven, in Scripture, is ALWAYS a principle of evil. "Beware" is a warning word – never used outside of a warning context – and why would Jesus warn them of the Gospel? If you still believe that leaven is somehow anything other than evil in the Bible, then your interpretation is hypocrisy! Don't blame me – Jesus just said that....

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

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.

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.

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.

~ Cromwell and Martin Luther both used this passage as their premise when they both said, "... fear God and you will have no one else to fear." Cromwell was once questioned to state the basis of his extreme courage and fearlessness, and that was his reply....

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

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

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:

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

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.

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:

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

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

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

~ Even Jesus Himself refused to make a judgment in a case like this. If those who attempt to “counsel” would take this position at the proper time, then we wouldn’t need very many of them. Most are lightning quick to tell you what you should do. Typically, their advice is alarming when it is boiled down to how little thought goes into their words. That advice quickly becomes dangerous to God's children. Jesus is not our judge, friends – He is our Savior right now. When He returns to the earth, He will be the judge - and all judgment will be committed to Him forevermore! Today, Christ is our Savior and out of this incident He gave a parable....

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.

~ We live an age of unbridled crass materialism, friends. A whole lot of well-meaning so-called Christians would do well to adopt this verse as their creed. People are so busy today and their time is entirely consumed with abject nothingness. This is one of those sins you can actually commit, and no one will notice. You probably aren’t conscious of it yourself! Most people aren't. St. Francis of Assisi once said, “.... men have confessed to me every known sin except the sin of covetousness.” I wonder how much covetousness is confessed in the average church members prayer life today. I suspect not much.

The Sunday pictorial in London many decades ago provided the following assessment of America: “.... we owe America so much that the least we can do is to be honest! America often acts as if they own the United Nations and act as if they are not an equal partner; America dragoons the outside

nations that are dependent upon them economically. America expects others to make greater sacrifices than they are prepared to make themselves! The standard of America reaches re-armament while [the U.K.] is falling. Our two countries have shared, this year, the finest and fastest weapon in the form of a jet bomber man has yet known; how many of your secrets have you passed along to us?" Those criticisms still stand today, to be sure; and notice what came next in this commentary: "... you, America, shock [the U.K.] with a belief that the almighty dollar and armies alone can save the world." This is PRECISELY where the United States falls today! We are wholly overcome by covetousness; and the Lord Jesus Christ gives a parable two thousand twenty-one years ago - and counting - just for this day in which we live....

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

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

~ I call the "I" disease 'perpendicular-iatus;' and any writing that has someone saying "I" in it, well, just count the number of times "I" vs. "God" appears to discern unfruitful writing. Perpendicular-iatus was Job's problem. The lesson in the Book of Job, my beloved, is repentance. Only the religious man needs to repent. It is the diseased man who only look inwards. A rich man has asked, "... what shall "I" do?" "I" and "my" appear eight times in three verses. Well, let's see what "I" can do....

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.

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.

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?

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

~ Here we see a man with no treasure in Heaven and no reward on earth. His entire life has been dedicated to accumulating what he would part ways with that night. This is a picture of an empty and sorry life without purpose or direction. Into this universe, and why, not knowing, nor whence, like water flowing willy-nilly; and out of it as wind along the ways – no man knoweth what way willy-nilly bloweth! That’s how most people live their lives, friends. I just expressed an epitaph from long ago that is more than relevant. It captures the essence of just about every single writing on this forum on which I teach. The name on the tomb was John Racket. Well, he lay in a wooden jacket. He kept not horses; nor mules, but he lived like a hog and died like a dog leaving every possession to fools!

The Lord Jesus is calling men such as them fools. From all outward appearances, this was a good man. Racket was a law-abiding citizen who paid his taxes. He was a good neighbor and lent a helping hand whenever he could. He had a fine family that he said he loved. This man was completely above all suspicion living the good life in suburbia and had a house in the best gated community in the city. This is not some member of the mafia, and he wasn’t in a street gang. Racket was not into crooked politics, and he loved his country. He didn’t own some shady business and he didn’t drink or do drugs. This man had never been unfaithful to his wife in their fifty years of marriage. The Lord Jesus Christ calls him a fool; because the fool gives all of their time, energy and thought to selfishness and covetousness.

***~ Let’s have a tea party at three, small
Three guests in all ~
~ Just I, myself and me
Myself ate all the sandwiches
~ But I drank all the tea
And it was also I that ate all the pie
~ But I passed the cake to me***

Many so-called Christians are living like selfish pigs, my beloved readers. I don’t blame them, though; because most of them were raised that way and don't know any better. Well, change will be just that much more difficult

for them; however, a change in our life is imperative to Christ. I cannot make this collection of paragraphs any more pungent than this; and it's the single most alarming statement I can locate in the entire Word of God. The philosophy of an unbeliever is, "... eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." The Lord Jesus Christ said, "you're a fool!" The Word of God has been so absolutely undeniably true in my life that I would be a fool to think that the Bible was not exactly accurate with what lay beyond this life. Jesus is talking about treasures in Heaven. I'm not sure I could make it any clearer, although I would like to dwell on this subject for several more reports....

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.

~ This is one of those tragically confused, misused and recklessly handled passages in the Bible. We are to take no "anxious" thoughts of these things. We aren't to worry about them. Our lives are much more than food and clothes. We certainly can store things up for the right purpose regarding material possessions down here and I don't see anything wrong with it – IF – IF – IF you are not acting in pure covetousness, trying to just get more and more and more all the time. We are right back to the curse of godless capitalism in the world. Judgment is passed on the rich when Jesus says, "go to ye rich and howl because your woe is upon you!" Solomon said, "...a man lays up riches to his own hurt." The world still believes the dollar can solve all of our problems – if we only had enough of them in one place – like OUR bank account.

Well, the world is in deeper trouble than it has ever been in throughout the history of mankind. The only debate we ever hear about money is if the statement "... in God we trust" should appear in print on it. I say take it off! It's hypocrisy anyways – no one trusts in God – but they sure trust that money. It is absolutely meaningless to continue to print that on our money because it means nothing to the lives of the average American tonight. America mouths religion until everyone wants to vomit and no one listens to another person anymore anyways! There is not a drop of reality in our lives. Before you ask God to search your heart – search your OWN heart –

and see what's in there. Are you living for this life only? That won't work out well in prayer. Jesus said to go look at the birds – we might learn something from them....

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

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?

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

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

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.

~ Well, I love flowers, and I just happen to have considered the lilies. My question is: what did the Lord Jesus mean here? What is Jesus trying to tell us when He says "consider the lilies?" Consider all the flowers – we have NO IDEA how they grow. When we look at the flower, I think the flower might look back and say to itself, "... people sure do go to great lengths to try to look good." We have lotions, bath salts, ointments, treatments and perfumes – we have it all! Most of us don't even dress up well, and those who do could not compare to an orange blossom on any level. What a message; some of us, of little faith, need to depend on God just a little bit more. Don't be of an anxious mind or thought. Just give every thought and deed to the Lord; how 'ya doing with that command, friends? How much more wonderful could it be than this that Christ is saying to His own? ~

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?

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

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

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

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

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 corrupted.

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

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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?

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

~ It is imperative that this passage be understood by those who are saying they are looking for the Lord to return. The important thing to do is to be working for Him as if He won't be coming for another thousand years! Those are the blessed servants. We don't know when Christ will return; although many people seem to think they have information that is not contained in the Word of God. Well, they may have information - but it's a lie. No one has inside information that the rest of us don't have; the Spirit of God just doesn't reveal Himself that way to anyone.

There's no need to become discouraged about all of this. I think God smiles when someone sets a date for Him, truthfully. I'm sure Jesus makes sure He isn't even in TOWN on that day! Jesus Himself said He would return at a time we weren't expecting. I don't know how much more clearly that can be made? We all need to have something to lay at His feet in that day, too. Today, we ought to be busy working in the light and in the expectation of His return so we can have those fruits! Our attitude, demeanor and spirit should be lived as if He will be there the next moment! Remember, when He does appear, we will give an account to Him. If you internalize this doctrine, then it will affect your daily living. That is certainly the message. This is NOT salvation – this is not a criminal court. It is, however, a circuit court where our property is in danger. We are to appear to determine if we are to receive a reward or not. This is not funny business....

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

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;

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.

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.

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.

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

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

~ It's interesting to me that, in this bleak hour of our deepest darkness in the history of mankind, the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ is still blasphemed. The fire has sure been thrown out upon the earth. The way this is 'straightened' – as Jesus asks – is through His death on the cross. I get a little tired of the little Jesus peace people who erroneously think Christ is some sort of a Siamese twin with peace. As long as there is sin in this world, there will be no peace – only division. There will be no peace for the wicked, saith God, through His prophet. Even when Christ does bring peace, He does so by bringing the willfully disobedient down in their rebellion! We have war all over the world right now. I don't think this world will EVER cease fighting. If we don't fight in one place, we sure will find a place to fight somewhere else.

No, there isn't going to be peace in this world until Christ returns. I understand how difficult this can be in our thinking – but – it will help us

tremendously to process these truths properly, correctly and completely. How arrogant it is for fallible little man to deign presume he can bring peace on this earth. Man is a warmonger by nature. The United Nations peace-keeping force is the best fighting machine in the world! What a contradiction in terms we really are. Well, we have to believe this world is as Christ says it is. When a man comes to Christ, he is immediately separated from the unbelievers that surround him. Some are related by blood and some are just make-believers who have never come to Christ as a sinner. Christ divides us all with a very distinct and unapologetic sword....

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

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

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.

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.

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

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?

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

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.

59 I tell thee, thou shalt not depart thence, till thou hast paid the very last mite ~

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