



Luke 12-13 Review

By Mike Clark

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Chapters 12 and 13 are part of the bigger picture of 9:51-19:48 which covers Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Along the journey, Jesus teaches on many topics and addresses both the disciples and those in the crowds as well as the religious leaders.

Chapter 12 is all about vigilance in the face of eschatological crisis (eschatology relates to death, judgment, and the final destiny of humankind). Chapter 13 covers who will participate in the kingdom.

Jesus warns that opposition to him is opposition to God himself (12:1-12). The right use of money then becomes the topic with Jesus using a parable to rebuke the arrogant rich (12:13-21) and comforting his followers with the reminder of God's providential care (12:22-34). Jesus goes on to emphasize the need to discern the times and to take appropriate action in light of the situation (12:35-13:9). Jesus' healings on the Sabbath create further controversy (13:10-17) and he teaches about the eventual spread of the kingdom (13:18-21) and how it is to be entered (13:22-30).

Luke 12:1-7

God reveals ALL TRUTH – that's what light does

God sends hypocrites to hell

Nothing escapes God's eyes

12:4-5

4"I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. **5**But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

Jesus does not warn his followers that persecution is coming as much as he warns them regarding improper and proper responses to persecution.



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The fear Jesus refers to here has to do with situations where your life is in danger. And more specifically it is fear in the face of life-threatening persecution on account of one's identification with God's purpose and people.

Jesus tells us that in hostile situations of life imperilment, God is the only one who should be feared.

The Greek word for hell here is Gehenna, which refers in the OT to the valley of Hinnom, which was the site of the sacrifice of children, declared unclean by Josiah and converted into a trash heap, then associated with eschatological judgment in the prophets. With time it came to be associated with the fiery judgment of eschatological judgment. With this phrase Jesus clearly introduced an eschatological note into his instruction on faithfulness in the midst of trials.

Luke 12:8-12

Be in AWE when He makes you aware that you have Jesus' forgiveness – We should be in awe knowing that as believers who have acknowledged Christ before men will be acknowledged before the angels of God. This is similar to a court or judicial scene, only this is a heavenly court.

Jesus uses a play on words and says that acknowledging him before humanity is a prerequisite to being acknowledged by the son of humanity.

Acts 7:55-56

⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

The opposite is also true. If you deny Christ before men, you will be denied before the angels of God. Public acknowledgment leads to heavenly acknowledgment and public denial leads to heavenly denial.

Be aware of blaspheming the Holy Spirit, know what that is – this involves rejecting the Holy Spirit's testimony concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. The



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Holy Spirit reveals the truth of salvation in Christ and those who speak evil of that revelation reject the testimony of the Holy Spirit to Christ. Having done that they cut themselves off from the only source of divine, saving truth and cannot be forgiven.

Be assured the Holy Spirit will be with you when you are called to acknowledge Jesus in front of others – It should encourage us and motivate us to share the gospel more often knowing this truth.

Luke 12:13-21 – Parable of the Rich Fool

Coveting is not lessened by what you desire

Coveting produces work that is meaningless

Coveting produces a dead-end wealth

In this parable God labels a rich landowner as a fool, that is one whose practices deny God. This farmer fails to account for God in his plans. Sounds like James 4:13-15

¹³Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— ¹⁴yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

The farmer did not consider that his life was on loan from God and one night God required payment of that loan.

Luke 12:22-31

Trust in the Lord who cares for you and rules over you –

We should not be anxious about material things knowing that just as God provides for the ravens and the lilies of the field, he will provide for us.

Make seeking God's kingdom and His righteousness your first priority in life. Why? – Verse 32.



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Luke 12:32

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

Notice that even though those who Jesus is addressing here are few, he calls them a flock. And we as the church in the grand scheme of things are few are we not? We are little compared to the rest of the world.

Jesus then takes upon Himself the office of a shepherd and guarantees to them feeding and folding, protection and safety.

It's as if Jesus is saying “Never mind how few you are or how despised you are; your feebleness gives you a warmer place in my heart.”

And who was their Father? It was the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus could have said “It is My Father's good pleasure,” but he says it is your Father's good pleasure, which has an endearing way to it and would have been a great comfort to know that God is their Father.

Contrast a little flock with a Great Shepherd and a great fear with a greater consolation.

Reminds us of Isaiah “Who has believed our report?” Few. How few were gathered out of Israel. How few are those who are in Christ. Many are called but few are chosen.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

Think of the millions that don't know God and the hundreds of millions that are content to worship themselves and the work of their own hands.



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Jesus tells us later in this chapter not to be anxious about material or temporal things.

It is the Father's good pleasure to give us not only bread and water, but the kingdom!

If God Almighty goes to the trouble to give us the kingdom forever, will he let us starve on the road to the kingdom?

Are you worrying about losses you have had and how you will recover from them? – Remember that it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Some of us might worry about the future.

Some of us worry about our health. When our health starts to decline, we worry and wonder what we will do if this gets worse? Been there? I sure have.

What will I do Lord if my back gets so bad that I am bed-ridden, what will I do, what will I do?

Our Lord counsels us what to do.

John 14:1-3

1"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

That is our great hope! Hasn't it always been the case that God has helped and comforted us in every difficult trial and affliction?

Too often we dream up thousands of what ifs that for the most part never happen.

God will always provide mercy and grace to balance our trials and will provide strength to support our burdens.



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Hymn – Strangers and Pilgrims

A scrip for the way and a staff in my hand,
I march on in haste through the enemy's land:
The road may be rough, but it can not be long:
So I'll smooth it with hope, and I'll cheer it with song.

Greater fear should be whether or not you are in Christ. Do you fear hell? Do you fear sin? The Puritan Jeremiah Burrows wrote a book called the Evil of Evils and the whole point was that it was better to suffer the worst kind of suffering than to commit the least sin. If you fear sin, the Lord takes pleasure in you.

We who have put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ shall possess the kingdom forever and ever.

Luke 12:35-48

Experience the Drive in the Christian Life – The Second Coming – that is our glorious hope, that Jesus is coming back right? Just as Pastor Jody talked about a few weeks ago and how what is going on right now could be the first steps to the Lord's return!

Verse 37 is an amazing verse!

37 Blessed are those servants^(a) whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.

Not only has the Lord created us and given us physical life and as believers, eternal life, but one day the Lord will serve us? - That is just over the top amen?

When Jesus returns, he will minister as a servant to believers!

Know the Cost of being or not being ready – verses 41-48 contrast those who are ready and those who are not, those who will be found faithful and those who will not.



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Those that are ready for the Lord's return and are faithful will be blessed and have the Lord utter the words that every Christian longs to one day hear – "Well done good and faithful servant."

However, those who are not ready and are not faithful will be cut in pieces and put with the unfaithful, which is hell.

Now verses 47-48 reveal a horrific reality in that there will be degrees of punishment in hell. Just as there will be degrees of rewards in heaven, there will be degrees of punishment in hell.

⁴⁷And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. ⁴⁸But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating.

Learn the art of waiting gracefully

The proper response to the reality of Jesus' second coming is watchfulness. Jesus teaches us to remain at all times ready for His return.

Luke 12:49-59

The only way true peace can be obtained is that there must first be conflict.

Division recognizes no boundaries and it affects everyone, even the closest of allies -

Luke 12:51-53

⁵¹Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵²For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They 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."

Many people want to think of Jesus as a person who was only about peace, that there was never any conflict with him. But the Scriptures paint a different picture of Jesus. Jesus came to bring division.



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Like the apostle Paul who wished that King Agrippa would be as he was except the chains, we also desire that all who hear us would become Christians.

But the sad reality is that this does not happen. In fact, the opposite seems to happen. Few seem to respond to our message. We feel like Jeremiah sometimes when many reject the gospel.

But not only do people reject the gospel but it can get hostile right?

We can share the gospel with family members only to have them reject us and the relationship can be strained or even damaged beyond reconciliation.

There are believing children who have tried to evangelize their unbelieving parents and the parents have rejected the gospel and there is division between them.

And there are believing parents who have unbelieving children who reject the faith and want nothing to do with either their parents or their parents faith.

And you know this is really intense in cults because when you leave a cult or another religion like Islam, you are completely ostracized from that group of people and your family and this sometimes includes your livelihood and any ability to earn a living.

Seek to understand the times we live in and discover what blinds you.

In verses 54-59 - Make your peace with Christ before it's too late

Luke 13:1-5

We are called to repent.

We are all going to die and we don't know when and so the lesson is you better be ready, because you don't know when you will die.



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There is also caution here in reading God's judgment on others. Example- Corona virus and the people who have died from it. I think over 200,000 people have died globally so far and over 50,000 here in the US. Were they worse sinners? - No.

Jesus does not deny sin its consequences, nor that sin leads to judgment; instead he rejects the theory that those who encounter calamity have necessarily been marked by God as more deserving of judgment than those who do not.

Judgment will overtake people whether they are Galilean or Jerusalemite or of some other origin, unless they repent.

Jesus himself was a Galilean and upon his execution it might have been tempting to dismiss Jesus as one deserving of God's judgment.

Now that's not to say that there haven't been occasions where people have blasphemed God and defied Him to destroy them and have suddenly fallen dead. In some cases the punishment quickly followed the sin that one could not help but perceive the hand of God in it.

People have asked for the judgment of God and their prayer is sometimes heard and answered and the judgment came.

But calamity happens to both the righteous and the wicked. The wicked man sometimes falls dead in the street but sometimes even the minister has fallen dead in the pulpit, and sometimes preaching about heaven!

And when we escape calamity we can thank God that we were preserved and can only ascribe it to his mercy that we did not perish and it was grace and grace alone!

When calamities happen, we can ask ourselves "Am I not as great a sinner as those who died?" Have I not sinned against a holy God? Have all continued in all the things written in the book of the law to do them?

This should humble us and make us grateful for the Lord's mercy and grace and so appreciate what Christ did on the cross for us.



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Spurgeon said this:

“We are dying creatures, not living creatures, and we shall soon be gone. Perhaps, as here I stand, and rudely talk of these mysterious things, soon shall this hand be stretched, and dumb the mouth that lisps the faltering strain; power supreme, O everlasting King, come when thou mayest, oh, mayest though never intrude upon an ill-spent hour; but find me wrapped in meditation high, hymning my great Creator.”

Luke 13:6-9

We learned that everyone is living on borrowed time –

Jesus continues by insisting that the unrepentant have escaped judgment purely because of God’s mercy.

The parable of the fruit tree holds for the possibility of fruit-bearing in spite of a history of sterility – or in other words, the possibility of change leading to faith expressed in obedience to God’s purpose.

The importance of fruit-bearing has been emphasized repeatedly in Luke’s gospel.

The emphasis on fruit-bearing goes hand-in-hand with the emphasis on repentance in verse 3 and 5.

The execution of the Galileans was presumably unforeseen and similarly the tower of Siloam fell on those eighteen people without warning.

In the same way, the parable of the fig tree ends on a note of clemency counterbalanced by the ongoing threat of imminent judgment. God may have acted in mercy in holding back destruction for the moment, but this stay of judgment is temporary. Jesus says “now is the time to repent and live fruitful lives.”

Luke 13:10-17

Fixing a downward gaze



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Experiencing the Lord of the Sabbath

13:11 – disabilities or illnesses, esp prolonged illnesses...were sometimes caused by demons. Now the question might arise - Was this only in bible times or does it happen today? - It's very possible. We know this happened in the time of Jesus so it is possible it still happens today.

The same thing happened to Job where God granted Satan permission to afflict him.

But after 18 long years this woman was healed! And what was her response? – She glorified God.

You would think all who saw this would have done the same thing right? – No, not the ruler of the synagogue and the religious leaders. But the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

The woman's healing is analogous to God's sovereign work in salvation, and serves as a metaphor for what God offered to do for Israel. He passed by the religious and self-righteous and chooses the humble, bent over by the burden of their sin, without hope of deliverance by their own power, and sovereignly delivers them from Satan's power and lifts them up to praise and glorify him!

Luke 13:18-21 – Bill

Highlanders seek, sacrifice, and steward

We seek the kingdom by studying God's word

We seek the kingdom by speaking God's Word to others

We seek the kingdom by showing it to others

Luke 13:22-30 – Jason

Jesus alone saves us from our sin

Jesus alone saves us from our own righteousness



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V23 – Few being saved. Think about this. We really are few. Maybe 1-2 percent of the world will be saved. Maybe conservative would be 10 percent. Most will be damned. Heartbreaking and terrifying!

V24 – What is this striving? Isn't it easy to become a Christian? – MacArthur wrote a book about this called "Hard to Believe." There is the modern tendency to alter the true message of Christianity in order to meet the whims and desires of a culture hoping for nonconfrontational messages, easy answers, and superficial commitments.

Many people just want Jesus to make them well, happy, and prosperous. But Christ said this:

***24* Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. *25* For whoever would save his life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. *26* For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"**

Entering the narrow gate is difficult because of its cost in terms of human pride, because of the sinner's natural love for sin and because of the world's and Satan's opposition to the truth.

At the judgment many will protest that they deserve entrance into heaven.

V 27 - Depart from me, I never knew you – comparative passage in Matthew 7. Scary verse! Many who are religious and thought they were Christians tragically have heard those words uttered by Christ to them.

Weeping and gnashing of teeth – frightening picture! This speaks of inconsolable grief and unremitting torment. Jesus often used these descriptions as well as outer darkness (which describes that which is farthest from the light) to describe hell.

Now as we'll see in the weeks ahead, Jesus will lament over Jerusalem which underscores the failure of so many Jews to respond to him (13:31-35) and will be reiterated in his warning about those who seek places of honor (14:7-14) and the parable of the great banquet (14:15-24) as well as



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another warning about the cost of discipleship (14:25-35). And then Jesus will give the famous three “lost” parables of the sheep, coin, and the son in chapter 15.

That’s what is ahead and I’m excited to get back to this wonderful gospel on the life of Christ amen?