

## Lesson 5 – Seek God’s Kingdom

Text: Luke 12

Main Characters: God, Jesus

Key Passages:

- Luke 12:15 – Jesus taught the people that life consisted of more than just possessions.
- Luke 12:31 – “But seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.”
- Luke 12:34 – “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
- Luke 12:48 – “From everyone who has been given much, much will be required...”

Main Storyline:

While Jesus had been arguing with the Pharisees (Luke 11), an enormous multitude of people had gathered around him. They were so many people that they were stepping on each other. Jesus began teaching his disciples in the midst of the crowds. He explained that they needed to be careful of the leaven (teaching) of the Pharisees, as they were hypocrites. He told them that, eventually, everything would be revealed. Jesus also reassured them that they should not be afraid of men; once they kill the body, there is nothing more that they can do to someone. On the other hand, they should fear and respect the one (God) who has the ability to throw one into hell. Jesus taught the disciples that God cared for them, and that if they confessed Jesus before men, Jesus would confess them before the angels of God. Again, on the other hand, if they denied Jesus, Jesus would deny them as well. Jesus told them that the Holy Spirit would aid them when they were questioned by the rulers and authorities.

At some point, someone in the crowd shouted to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” Jesus answered, “Who appointed me a judge over you?” Jesus took advantage of the opportunity to warn the people about greed, “...not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.” He followed up by telling a parable about a rich man. The rich man was very productive, so productive, in fact, that he had no place to store his crops because his barns were already full. He decided he would tear down his barns and build even larger ones. He thought to himself that he would be able to live on his wealth for many years to come. However, God told him that he would die that night, and he asked the man, “...and now who will own what you have prepared?” Jesus concluded his parable, “So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Jesus continued with the principle by teaching many of the same ideas that he had taught in the “Sermon on the Mount” (Matthew 5-7). He instructed the disciples not to worry about their lives; as God takes care of animals and plants, even more so God would take care of his people. Worrying would not add any time to their lives, either. God would take care of providing for the needs of his people. Jesus told his disciples, “But seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.” He went on to explain that one’s heart will be wherever one has his treasures. In other words, Jesus was teaching that a person will be most concerned with whatever he spends his time. He encouraged the disciples to build up treasure in heaven.

Jesus then encouraged his disciples to always be ready for the Son of Man to return (judgment). He used illustrations of slaves waiting for their master to reinforce the importance of always being ready. Peter asked if these teachings were meant for everyone or for just the disciples. Jesus answered by giving another illustration about a steward put in charge of a master’s servants. He followed the parable with this thought: “From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.” Jesus concluded his teaching on the subject by briefly considering the consequences of his work. He pointed out that he did not come to bring peace, but division. He urged the people to take notice of what was going on around them and recognize that they needed to be ready.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) We must recognize that physical possessions are not important; we must build up treasure in heaven.
- 2.) We must constantly be prepared for judgment; we do not know when that time will come.