

- We need to be rich **IN THE SIGHT of GOD**: 12:21

vs 22-32 **7. Anxiety and Worry:**

- Divine Providence cares for us
- God wants Confidence and Trust from us
- **Why?** - He gives us the Kingdom of God for nothing!!

vs 33-34 **8. : Work for the Kingdom of God. Don't cling to earthly things**

- Be **free** in almsgiving

vs 35-40 **9. Ready For God's Call**

- We participate in Jesus' Journey Back to God in **our** lives.
 - so **we must be EVER READY "to preach, pray, serve or die at any moment"!**
- Like the servants } at the Wedding Feast
 (Priests) } - like the Householder (the Pope / Family)
- The Church must **BE READY** for Jesus' Return! **Always!**
 - His Return will be sudden and unexpected

vs 41-48 **10. The Responsibility of Peter** (the Pope) and the Leaders (Servants)

- Peter asks if this teaching is **just** for **this** physical journey to Jerusalem or for the **Church** for all time.
 - Jesus says '**Yes**' – **for all time**
 - Jesus says you will have to answer for your responsibilities that you held in the Church! Like Jesus we must be "busy with our Father's affairs": 2:49

vs 49-53 **11 The Sword of Division**

- People will decide for or against Jesus – hence **Division** within families and in society. In 8:19-21 and 11:27-28 Jesus taught that the most important relationships are those in the KOG.

vs 54-13:9 **12 The need for Repentance**

- The people don't realise that the Mosaic Era will end in Judgement for the Nation. Wake up and **read** the signs of the Times
- Jesus uses an image of the Law Courts to beg them to **REPENT IN TIME!** They were living in a period of Mercy with Jesus.
- We are at the end of an **ERA** also and Judgement awaits us **too.**

The Place of Possessions on the Journey to God: (12:13-40)

(ie) The **Problem** of **Security**

In this section Luke contrasts the **greed and avarice of the crowds** with the lifestyle of the disciples.

a) **Hoarding Possessions:** (12:13-21)

We begin with a family dispute as we did with Martha and Mary. (10:38-42)

- As with Martha, Jesus is **expected** to **intervene** to **force** a relative to do the right thing but, as in the case of Martha, Jesus refuses.

- As with Martha, Jesus goes to the **underlying problem behind** the request.

v 15

- **Why** do you want this? Avarice? Lust for possessions?
- Ⓝ Do not equate possessions with **LIFE** : (Lk 9:25 -)
Life is fragile. It can be taken from you quickly and easily.
- If a man's importance lies in what **HE OWNS** he is very poor indeed.
- Ⓝ You can't take your riches **into** or beyond the grave.
[“Have you ever seen a **U-HAUL** behind a hearse?!”]
See Ps 49 Prov 27:1 1 Tim 6:7 James 4:13-15 Rev 3:17-18
- Ⓝ Jesus not only points out **the uselessness of hoarding treasures** but also the **selfishness** that governs their use. The problem is → **pleonexia** – the desire to have more... **and more** than one's fair share.

b) **Disciple's Lifestyle:** 12:22-48

3 Basic Points:

- 1) Must not **“worry or fret over material things”**. God's Providence provides security.
- 2) They must be generous in **giving** material things away → **almsgiving is vital**
- 3) They must always be **ready** for **Christ's Return**.

Since **Life** does not consist of the abundance of possessions (12:15), they must not be anxious about their needs – like unbelievers.

- Examples of creation a) ravens b) flowers c) grass (12:24-28)
Since God takes care of His creatures on every level of the biological scale – how **much** more will He take good care of **His children?** (28)
- The example of **our** helplessness in so many things: 12:26
 - so much that happens in life is **out of our control**
 - so, worry is useless and fruitless

Solution

- (1) **invest** in **God's** Kingdom / God's Presence and Will to allow yourself to experience **God's** generosity
- (2) God has given the Kingdom to **us**, so why not **live** the life of that Kingdom to **prove** to others that **GOD TRULY LIVES**.
- (3) **Give generously – as God gives**. Luke is very strong on the **fact** that possessions are dangerous (3:11; 6:30; 7:5; 11:41; 12:33-34; 14:14; 16:9; 18:22; 19:8; Acts 9:36; 10:2, 4, 31)

- Why?**
- Because God wants us to have **permanent treasure in Heaven**
 - Because **OUR HEART** is **with** the treasure and **He** wants our **HEARTS IN HEAVEN**
 - where God, Light, Life and Love is

Ready for the Road: (12:35-40) The Exodus is under way. (Ex 12:11)

Those who participate must **LIVE** like **PILGRIMS**.

- Between Ascension and the Second Coming the Church must continue this Exodus Journey and never give up.
- Faith must be alive and alight – burning with love: (Mt 25:1-13: 10 Virgins)
- Spiritual life must **BE AWAKE**, alive and active
- Jesus will invite us into the Wedding Banquet, if we are ready.

The Disciples' Responsibility on the Journey: (12:41-53)

- Peter's question is V.I.P. Jesus appointed **him** to be the Chief Steward (9:18-21) and he must carry out his duties faithfully to the Lord. The Twelve had stewardship of God's People, but it also applied to their descendants in the Church for all time.
- If one of the stewards becomes worldly, a drunkard, etc., **the Lord will treat him** as an unbeliever at the Second Coming!

Peter asked if this applied to **everyone**?: (12:47-48)

This section shows that it **is** for everyone but **according to the DEGREE of Responsibility**. Privilege and Responsibility go together.

Heavenly Fire: (12:49-50)

John the Baptist had predicted that the Christ would bring Fire to the earth: (3:16)

- Now Jesus declares that he **intends** bringing the Fire of God to the Earth and how much he wants to see it blazing!
 - This is not Elijah's 'fire of judgement' (10:55) **but Pentecost** : (Ac 2)
 - It is the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Church and the world: (3:16)

But

the cost is a **Baptism of Fire for Jesus** – in the Passion!

Cause of Division: Jesus is **the rejected sign** (2:34-35), so his Presence in Palestine pulls the masks off everyone.

- He is accepted and rejected by the most extraordinary groups!
- He is like an x-ray machine showing up **what is in all hearts** demanding a response of 'yes' or 'no' to God, and His Word, and to the gift of Salvation that was being offered.
- Since this decision is individual, expect divisions in families, groups and nations.

Ⓝ This reality continues throughout the church's history also.
But Jesus' gift is **PEACE** and **JOY**: (2:11-20; Jn 14, 15)

REPENTANCE: (12:54-13:9)

Jesus demands that the crowds stop vacillating and see what is going on between Him and the Authorities – and where it will lead to.

Can't they **read** the Messianic Signs? Judgement is imminent for the Nation, because the **death of the Messiah** will be followed soon after by the **death of the Temple**, the death of the City and the death of the Nation!

vs 57:59

They should wake up, repent and enter the Kingdom of God while there is still time – like someone settling with his enemy on the way (on the Journey!) to Court (final Judgement).

- The Church is warned to keep its home in order on the Journey also!!

Examples of Repentance: (13:1-5)

Jesus chooses two terrible incidents from recent history to illustrate that Life can be taken from us swiftly and brutally.

- This does **NOT** mean that these people were more guilty than others.
 - It merely illustrates that we need to be **EVER-READY** to meet God in Judgement.

vs 5

- Those people “**PERISHED**” (ie) lost their lives
you might **PERISH** (ie) **lose your soul** – much greater tragedy!

The Barren Fig Tree: (13:6-9)

The Fig Tree was a symbol of the House of Israel - the whole nation.

- In (3:9) John the Baptist had predicted that Judgement was coming: the axe was being laid to the roots of the Trees (Vine / Olive / Fig)
- Here in (13:6-9) God has laid the axe, **but Jesus begs for more time!** He has one more year of Ministry to manifest God's loving mercy.
- So Israel is given **MORE TIME** to Repent! (cf. Jn 15:1-5)

(NB) God deals with the Church and the individual in the same way
But the time comes when mercy is replaced by Justice. **Be warned!** Cf. 2 Pet 3:6; Rom 3:19

Triumph over Enemies: (13:10-21)

- The woman symbolises Israel bent with burdens and held that way by Satan. The 3 years are the length of Christ's ministry.
- The nation is **still** not able to 'lift up its head' as the son of God.
- Jesus wants to release her on the Sabbath so that she will give glory to God – It will **truly** be God's Day of re-creation for her.

13:14

The synagogue official is indignant and lectures the people about the use of the Synagogue in obedience to the Laws! (11:46)

- These laws are **part** of Israel's burden, which **they** refuse to lift.