

## END OF FIRST SECTION OF "THE GOING"

- Ⓝ This First section of The Going **began** with Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening to and absorbing God's Word (10:38-42); **praised** those who hear the Word of God and keep it (11:28); **ends with condemning those who don't hear and do the Word.**

### Result of Confrontation between Jesus and Religious Leaders (11:53-54)

- 1) Their rejection turns to hatred and
  - 2) They begin to openly attack him
- } the hunt for the **Victim** has begun
- 3) Their rejection of the Word makes one a **persecutor** of **the Word**: (49-51)  
Cf. 6:11; 19:47; 20:19; 22:2

## CHAPTER 12:

### The Church will be Persecuted: Introduction: 12:1-2

Luke refers to a vast crowd here. The crowds have been increasing of late: 11:29  
They are eager to hear what Jesus and his disciples have to say...

We have to understand the enormous Mission to the world-  
And the enormous challenge this is to the disciples.

The emphasis here focuses on the relationship between **the disciples' personal life**  
...and their responsibility for others.

In times of persecution that responsibility increases...

Since Jesus and the Church are **ONE** Mystical Body, if they oppose and persecute Jesus, The Word, they will also oppose and persecute the Church.

- In 12:1-3 Jesus tells his disciples **NOT** to **FEAR** persecution...  
they are **TO FEAR hypocrisy and pretence**, which he has condemned in the Pharisees.
- God's Word tears the mask off all pretence and false security.  
In the Light of God's Truth, everything is known, and **"the truth will out"**.

The text in 12:2 **"Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known"**

A variant form of this was given in 8:17, and was developed further in 11:33-36

- a) Disciples must not pretend they don't know the Truth! (11:33-36)
- b) They must not be afraid of the large crowds and their pressing needs (us!)
- c) They must openly and fearlessly proclaim Christ no matter **what** the consequences

### Fear and its cure: (12:4-7) Whom should we fear?

- We should fear God and His Judgement, yet do not fear Him wrongly for He cares for us.
- We should fear our failure to proclaim Jesus, The Word: (12:9)
- Love and trust in God's mercy is the cure for this fear (12:6-7)

**Professing Christ Under Persecution:** (12:8-9) - this is the test of disciples

- To deny Christ to save oneself is **LOSS**. Jesus will not recognise this person as a disciple in the Kingdom of God...
- To lose one's life proclaiming Christ is **GAIN**. Your discipleship is seen and acknowledged in the Kingdom of God. **You** are received into Glory! Cf. 9:23-26

**Unforgiven Sin:** 12:10 (11:19)

To Blaspheme against God's Holy Spirit is the unforgiveable sin, for one has declared God **evil**.

This puts the light out, banishes grace and plunges the soul into terrifying darkness.

To commit this sin one has to know who Jesus is and also deny his Divinity or accuse him of evil 11:14-23  
This is a radical rejection of the Christian life and God's action in us through the Holy Spirit..

All sins committed against Jesus in his life-time will be forgiven **because** they do not recognise who he truly is and as far as **they** are concerned, they are sinning against a **man**, not God.  
Of course they **do** know they are breaking the Law of Charity!

## CHAPTER 12

**CHAPTER 12:** Presented as a string of pearls – which may have been given at different times...

\*Luke gives us **CHARAZ** – a string of Pearls - here in Jesus' Teaching.

- vs 1-3** 1. **Hypocrisy is Folly:** God's Word tears the mask off all pretence...
- Jesus does not want **His disciples** to end up like Pharisees and Scribes  
- "the truth will out!" cf. Jn 3:19-21
- vs 4-7** 2. **The Problem of Fear:** 12:4-7 Fear of Persecution can make disciples deny Jesus:  
cf. **Peter in 22:54-62**  
- We should "fear" only God: yet He loves us infinitely! (Jer. 31:3)  
**"I have loved you with an everlasting love and I am constant in my affection for you".**
- vs 8-9** 3. **Proclaim Christ to the World:** If we are **AFRAID** to do it, we risk His rejection of us on Judgement Day! Cf. Mt 10:33; Lk 12:9; Mk 8:38
- vs 10** 4. **Sinning against Jesus vs Holy Spirit:**  
Jesus, as Man, forgives us, but to sin against **THE SPIRIT of GOD**  
- the very Essence of the Godhead is an **ETERNAL SIN!!** Cf. **Mt 12:31-32; Mk 3:28-29**
- vs 11-12** 5. **Fear of Persecution** not necessary  
- the Holy Spirit of God is with us to **GUIDE** us... Acts 4
- vs 13-21** 6. **The Problem of Possessions and Security:** 13-21 Psalm 49 and Proverbs
- Jesus says they can **BLOCK** our Way to God
  - Hoarding is the opposite of Almsgiving: cf. 6:38; 12:33-34

- 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