

Lesson 16- Luke 12:22- 13:17

Do Not Worry, Watchful Slaves, Time of Judgment, Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman on the Sabbath

In our last lesson Jesus told the Parable of the Rich Fool. This lesson begins where that one left off, as a part of the same teaching. Jesus describes how much God cares about even the smallest or most insignificant of creatures. They are called to depend on God and He will provide.

1. **Choose one verse in this lesson that you find particularly comforting or meaningful and share it with the group. Cite the verse by chapter and verse numbers.**
2. **Read Luke 12:22-34 and footnotes. These words would have been helpful *before* the disciples were sent out without purse, sack or sandals. This is a good lesson for any age or time. What is the Lord's message about worry in general? (Note the verses you are using.)**

How does Jesus address worry about where their next meal will come from?

How does he address the issue of clothing, or the concern about the lack of clothing?

Luke 12:22-34 He said to [his] disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ Notice the ravens: they do not sow or reap; they have neither storehouse nor barn, yet God feeds them. How much more important are you than birds! ²⁵ ***Can any of you by worrying add a moment to your life-span?*** ²⁶ ***If even the smallest things are beyond your control, why are you anxious about the rest?*** ²⁷ Notice how the flowers grow. They do not toil or spin. But I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of them. ²⁸ If God so clothes the grass in the field that grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? ²⁹ As for you, do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not worry anymore. ³⁰ All the nations of the world seek for these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his kingdom, and these other things will be given you besides. ³² Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

3. **So we are called NOT to worry here. What specifically does Jesus say His disciples *SHOULD* do? Again, cite the specific verses you are using by number.**

4. Read Luke 12:35-40 and footnotes! Jesus is using an analogy in these verses.

Who are the watchful servants a symbol for in this parable? Who then is the absent master?

Luke 12:35-40 "Gird your loins and light your lamps ³⁶ and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. ³⁸ And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. ³⁹ Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

5. What did Jesus mean when he said “Gird your loins and light your lamps in the above parable?”

6. Read again Luke 12:35-40 and Isaiah 25:6. What does it mean to have the Master waiting on and serving his watchful and diligent servants? This is a role reversal.

Isaiah 25:6 The Lord of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, and refined, aged wine.

7. Read Luke 12:41-48 and footnotes.

What is the reward for the faithful servant who follows the will of his master, even when he is away?

How does the Master treat the servant who instead of following the will of the master, beats the servants and eats, drinks and gets drunk when the Master is away?

What do you think it means when Jesus says the punishment less severe for the servant who did not know the Master’s will?

8. Reflection: Read Luke 12:49- 53. How can Jesus be the cause of a house divided?

Luke 12:49- 53⁴⁹ “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! ⁵⁰There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵²From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

9. Read Luke 13:1-5 and footnotes. Share any interesting info from your footnotes.

What would it mean to those faithful Jews to have human blood added to their sacrifices on the altar?

What do we learn about the character of Pilate here?

10. Reflection: Read Luke 13:6-9. If you had “one more year” like the fig tree to turn your life around, what would you do?

11. Read Luke 13:10-17 and footnotes. Jesus compares the fact that the Law allows one to untie bound animals on the Sabbath to the His own actions to free the woman from being bound by her infirmity (and the devil). How effective was this for those who witnessed this healing miracle?

Is the humiliation of the leader of the synagogue a good thing or a bad thing?