

Deeper Riches: Luke Bible Study
Week 11 - Luke 12:13-13:35

Before you begin...

Jesus is still making his way to Jerusalem in this week's passage, and his messaging is taking on a fiery tone. The kingdom of God has come near to the people, and now they have some choices to make: Will they strive to enter this kingdom and store up all their treasure there, or will they strive for wealth and comfort and ease, taking all their reward in this life? Will they repent and receive the mercy God is offering them right now, or will they wait until it's too late and the door to the kingdom is closed forever?

Jesus has sober words this week even for those who do choose to follow him. When he is gone we will need to stay faithful, prioritizing the kingdom of God over all earthly wealth, serving the church in his place until he comes, and enduring persecution even from our own family members. Though Jesus is about to depart, he is coming back, and we need to be ready at all times to give an account for how we have handled the wealth and responsibility entrusted to us.

Choosing the Kingdom of God means salvation and heavenly treasure, but it also means choosing the cross, a fact Jesus never far from Jesus' mind as he continues on this road to Jerusalem.

God, open my mind to understand your Word this week. Reveal where my priorities, desires and beliefs do not match yours. Show me how you want me to pray in response to your Word. Let these words of Jesus change my heart and alter how I live so that I might live a life of greater faithfulness to you.

Day 1 - Luke 12:13-34

1. **Read Luke 12:13-34.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**
- **questions** that come to mind

If you prefer to take some time to write out more observations, try using the Observation Guides at DeeperRiches.com/Luke or write out your observations and thoughts in a journal.

2. In Luke 12:13-14, what does the man from the crowd ask Jesus to do? How important do you think this dispute was for this man? How important does this man's concern seem to Jesus? (Compare with the concerns of Luke 11:2-4 and 4:18-19.)

3. In verse 15 Jesus warned the crowd to be on guard against all greed. What is greed? According to 1 Timothy 6:9-10, what is so dangerous about greed?

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4. Look at the parable in Luke 12:16-20.
- What was so wrong about the rich man's approach to possessions? Why did God call him a fool?
 - What do you think it means to be "rich toward God"? Consider Luke 12:33 and Proverbs 19:17.
 - What must we believe about God, heaven, and possessions in order to be "rich toward God" instead of storing up treasure for ourselves in this life?

5. How does this passage challenge the American ideal of retirement? What might it look like to plan for retirement with the goal of being "rich toward God"?

6. Why shouldn't we worry about what we will eat or wear? List a truth from each verse below:

12:23

12:24

12:25-26

12:27-28

12:29-30

12:32

Which of these truths is most significant to you personally? Why?

Which of these truths is hardest to believe?

7. "**Seek**" means "search for by thinking, meditating, reasoning, or inquiring into." It can also be translated "**strive after**," or "**set your heart on**."
- Jesus told us not to seek what we should eat or drink (12:29), but in the previous chapter he said to ask (even seek) for our daily bread (11:3,9). What's the difference?
 - Jesus tells us not to seek after food or clothing, but instead to seek the kingdom of God. Based on the definition above, what might it look like for you to "seek his kingdom" (12:31-32)?
8. List everything you notice about kingdom treasure in Luke 12:32-34. How does it compare with the treasure in 12:16-21?

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9. Pay close attention to Luke 12:34 and notice: which comes first and leads the other - the heart, or the treasure? How does this differ from conventional wisdom? What does this teach you about what to do if you want your heart to be more fixed on the kingdom of God?

10. Consider which kind of seeking from this passage best describes you. Which of the following things consume the greater part of your attention, your energy, and your money?

money or possessions

saving for the future

improving your earthly dwelling(s)

spending your money: shopping, travel, entertainment, sports

other:

food and clothing

how to live longer

improving your appearance

controlling what goes in your mouth

avoiding illness and injury for yourself or others

other:

the kingdom of God

worship and prayer

giving to the poor

the Word of God

growing in godliness

serving the church

sharing the gospel

other:

Respond to God in prayer about these things. **Praise** God for who he is. **Repent** of greed, worry, or anything else he revealed in this passage. **Ask** God to help you think rightly about possessions, health, and heavenly treasure. **Yield** all your priorities, anxieties, and possessions to your heavenly Father.

Day 2 - Luke 12:35-48

1. **Read Luke 12:35-48.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**
- **questions** that come to mind

In this passage, Jesus tells two parables about a master who goes away and then returns to his servants in order to teach his disciples how they ought to regard his coming departure and prepare for his return.

2. Read John 14:3, Acts 1:10-11, Phillipians 3:20, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, and Revelation 22:20. What do these verses have in common?

3. Consider the first parable in Luke 12:35-40.

- a. What might it mean to be *dressed and ready for service, alert, awake, and ready* for Jesus to come back?
- b. What is unusual about the response of the master in 12:37?
- c. What point is Jesus making by talking about a thief in Luke 12:39-40?

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3. What does each verse below tell us to DO as we wait for Jesus' return?

Hebrews 10:24-25

Revelation 3:11

1 Peter 1:13

Luke 9:26

1 Peter 4:7

1 John 3:2-3

Luke 21:34-36

Jude 1:2

4. Jesus responds to Peter's question in 12:41 with a parable about a faithful manager.

- a. What job is the servant in the parable given? (Consider: With what job will Peter be entrusted when Jesus departs? See John 21:15-17.)
- b. What reward will the faithful manager receive when the master returns (12:43-44)?
- c. What does Jesus warn us about in the second half of the parable (12:45-48)?

5. What has been entrusted to you to steward well for Jesus until he returns? What do you need to do to steward it well?

❖ **Deep Dive:** *Since it has been nearly 2000 years since Jesus departed, it can feel very much like Jesus "is delayed in coming." How do the following scriptures help explain his delay? Matthew 24:14, Romans 11:25-26, and 2 Peter 3.*

6. When you think of Jesus coming back to earth, what feelings do you experience? Longing? Dread? Disappointment? Fear? Excitement? Why? What are you most looking forward to about Jesus' return?

7. If you really believed that Jesus was going to return in your lifetime, or your children's lifetime, how would that impact the decisions you have in front of you right now?

8. What are some reasons someone might NOT want Jesus to come back? What are some things that you often desire more than Jesus' return?

Pray about these things right now. Be honest with God about your desire or lack of desire for Jesus' return.

Day 3 - Luke 12:49-59

1. Read Luke 12:49-59. Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**
- **questions** that come to mind

2. What do you find surprising about Jesus' words in Luke 12:49-51?

3. Brainstorm at least two possibilities of what this "fire" could be that Jesus wishes were already set ablaze (12:49).

❖ **Deep Dive:** How do Jesus' words in this passage relate to what John the Baptist said in Luke 3:15-17?

4. When Jesus, the Prince of Peace, said he didn't come to bring peace on earth, but division (12:51), what kind of peace/division was he referring to? See 12:52-53. What encouragement does Micah 7:5-7 give to someone whose family has turned against them because of Jesus?

5. In Luke 12:54-56, the crowds can read the weather, but they can't recognize the signs of "this present time." What evidence have they seen that the kingdom of God has come? (See Luke 7:20-23 and 11:20.)

6. Jesus brings up hypocrisy again in 12:56 when he is addressing the crowds. What role will their hypocrisy play in the "baptism" he has to undergo?

7. In Luke 12:57-59, Jesus reminds the crowds about the wisdom of seeking mercy from their accuser before they stand before the judge. What will happen to those who do not take advantage of "this present time" to repent and seek mercy from God? Look ahead to Luke 13:3 and 13:24-28. (See also Matthew 25:31-46 and Revelation 20:11-21:8.)

8. We are still in the window of history when salvation is open to everyone who repents and calls on the name of the Lord (Acts 2:21). How does knowing that this window will one day close impact you personally?

Pray about these things.

Day 4 - Luke 13:1-21

1. **Read Luke 3:1-21.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**
- **questions** that come to mind

2. How did Jesus challenge the people's understanding of God's judgment in Luke 13:1-5?

3. What does Jesus' parable in 13:6-9 have to say about repentance? (Remember Luke 3:7-9.)

4. What does the parable of the fig tree have to say about the patience and judgment of God?

5. What happened in Luke 13:10-13? Why did it make the leader of the synagogue angry (13:14)?

6. How does the leader of the synagogue show hypocrisy in this situation (13:15-16)?

7. Jesus goes on to talk about the kingdom of God in the next verses. What does Jesus healing the disabled woman have to do with the kingdom of God? (Compare Luke 11:20 with 13:16.)

8. What point is Jesus making about the kingdom of God by comparing it to sowing a mustard seed (13:18-19)?

9. What point is Jesus making about the kingdom of God by comparing it to yeast mixed into flour (20-21)?

Pray a prayer of praise to God in response to what he has shown you.

Day 5 - Luke 13:22-35

1. **Read Luke 13:22-35.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:
 - **who** is in the passage
 - **what** is happening
 - **when** and **where**
 - **repeated words** or **ideas**
 - **questions** that come to mind
2. In Luke 13:23, someone asked Jesus, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?” What has Luke demonstrated that we need to be saved from? (i.e. 13:3, 12:5, 11:31-32, 10:13-16, 3:7-9, and 3:17.)
3. What might have given this person the impression that only a few people will be saved?
4. What do you think it means that the door to the kingdom is narrow? How do we enter the kingdom of God?
5. List everything you observe about the kingdom of God in Luke 13:24-30.
6. What do you think verse 13:30 means in the context of entering the kingdom of God?
7. Why would Herod want to kill Jesus? Why might the Pharisees want him to go away?
8. What stands out to you in Luke 13:32-33?
9. What does Jesus’ attitude seem to be toward Jerusalem in Luke 13:34?
- ❖ **Deep Dive:** Read Psalm 118, quoted by Jesus in Luke 13:35. Do you see anything in this Psalm that reminds you of any of Jesus’ words in Luke? How does Psalm 118:19-27 help you make sense of what Jesus is saying in Luke 13:22-35?
10. How do you personally respond to this passage? Is there something you need to **praise** God for? Something to **repent** of? Something to **ask** from God? Something you need to **believe**?

PRAY about these things.

Day 5 - Pulling it all together

1. What is one thing you think Luke really wants us to understand from these stories? **If you have time, reread all of Luke 12:13-13:35 before answering.**
2. What have you learned about the kingdom of God from Luke 11, 12, and 13?
3. What is hypocrisy? What are some examples of hypocrisy in Luke 12 and 13?
4. What do these passages make clear about salvation?
5. What is your most important personal take-away from this chapter? *(For example, was there a **key verse**, a **special insight**, an **example** to follow, a new **way to pray**, something that **challenged** or **convicted** you, etc...)*

In what area of your life does this seem to matter most, and how?

One of the best ways to **apply** the Word of God to your own life is to really **pray** about what you have seen in the passage. Try this acronym: **P.R.A.Y.** - **Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield.** Use the prompts below to guide your prayers.

PRAISE. Thank and praise God for who he is and what he has done. Be specific.

REPENT. Confess your sin to God and turn from it. Agree with God about the things that need to change. Be specific.

ASK. What will you ask God to do based on what he has shown you? Be specific.

YIELD. What will you surrender to God? How can you trust and obey him in response to what he has shown you? Be specific.

Small Group Discussion Guide:

1. What is the point of Jesus' parable in Luke 12:13-21? How does this parable challenge our cultural ideas about wealth? What might it look like to plan for retirement with the goal of being "rich toward God"?
2. What do we need to believe in order to not worry about things like what we will eat and wear? (12:22-31)
3. What does it mean to seek the kingdom of God? What do we learn about kingdom treasure in Luke 12:32-34?
4. In Luke 12:35-48, Jesus tells two parables to teach the disciples how to await his return. What do you learn from these parables about what it means to be ready for the second coming of Jesus?
5. When you think of Jesus coming back to earth, what feelings do you experience? Longing? Dread? Disappointment? Fear? Excitement? Why? What are you most looking forward to about Jesus' return?
6. What is Jesus teaching about salvation in Luke 12:54-13:9, and 13:22-30? What do you need to do with this knowledge?
7. What is hypocrisy? What are some examples of hypocrisy in Luke 12 and 13?
8. What have you learned about the kingdom of God from Luke 11, 12, and 13?

What is your big take-away from this passage or this discussion? Is there anything you need to confess or yield to God in response to this Truth? What will you praise God for? What will you ask God to do?