Luke Chapter 12
Rhema Christian Center
Triumphant Tuesday Bible Study
October 20, 2026

The Leaven of Hypocrisy

Luke 12:1-3 ***MSG***
"By this time the crowd, unwieldy and stepping on each other's toes, numbered into the thousands. But Jesus' primary concern was his disciples**. He said to them, "Watch yourselves carefully so you don't get contaminated with Pharisee yeast, Pharisee phoniness. You can't keep your true self hidden forever; before long you'll be exposed. You can't hide behind a religious mask forever; sooner or later the mask will slip and your true face will be known. You can't whisper one thing in private and preach the opposite in public; the day's coming when those whispers will be repeated all over town."**

Hypocrisy:
Jesus condemns the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, warning His disciples to be careful that this sin does not enter into their own lives and ministry.

1. Hypocrisy means acting as if you are what you are not. For example, acting publicly as a godly and faithful believer, when in reality you harbor hidden sin, immorality, greed, lust, or other unrighteousness.

2. Since hypocrisy involves living a lie, it makes one a co-worker and ally of Satan, the father of lies (Jn. 8:44)

3. Jesus warns his disciples that all hypocrisy and hidden sin will be exposed, if not in this life, then on the day of judgment (Rom. 2:26; Rev. 20:12). What is done secretly behind closed doors will eventually be revealed openly.

What are the signs of hypocrisy?

- Hypocrisy is knowing the truth but not obeying it. People can say they follow Jesus but not obey his Word.
- It is living a self-serving life. People may desire leadership only because they love position and control, not because they want to serve others.
- Hypocrisy is outward conformity without inner reality; a person may carefully tithe their income, but be rude and obnoxious to their co-worker.

4. Hypocrisy is a sign that one does not fear God (v. 5) and does not possess the Holy Spirit with His regenerative grace (Rom. 8:5-14; Eph. 5:5). While remaining in this condition, one cannot "escape the damnation of hell" (Matt. 23:33).

Matthew 23:33 ***AMPC***
" You serpents! You spawn of vipers! How can you escape the penalty to be suffered in
hell (Gehenna)?"

Jesus Teaches the Fear of God

FEAR GOD: The disciples of Jesus must stand in awe of the majesty and holiness of God, and of His wrath *"against sin"*.

"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more *value* than many sparrows."
Luke 12:4-7 ***NKJV***

Fear of opposition or ridicule can weaken our witness for Christ. Often we cling to peace and comfort, even at the cost of our walk with God.
Jesus reminds us here that we should fear God who controls eternal, not merely temporal, consequences.

Don't allow fear of a person or group to keep you from standing up for Christ.

Christians have Godly value
Our true value is God's estimate of our worth, not our peers' estimate.
Other people evaluate and categorize us according to how we perform, what we achieve, and how we look. ***But God*** *cares for us as for all his creatures, because we belong to him. Thus, we can face life without fear; we are very valuable to God*
Psalm 8:4-5 AMPC
" What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of [earthborn] man that You care for him? Yet You have made him but a little lower than God [or heavenly beings], and You have crowned him with glory and honor."

Confess Christ Before Men

Luke 12:8-9 ***NKJV***
“Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.”

- We deny Jesus when we:
    - I hope no one will find out we are Christians.
    - When we decide not to speak up for what is right
    - When we blend into society, and accept our culture’s non-Christian values

- By contrast, we acknowledge him when we:(Vs. 10
    - Live moral, upright, Christian-honoring lives
    - Look for opportunities to share our faith with others
    - Help others in need, and love others
    - Acknowledge our loyalty to Christ
    - Use our resources and lives to carry out his desires rather than our own

Luke 12:10 ***AMP***
“And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit *[that is, whoever intentionally discredits the Holy Spirit by attributing the authenticating miracles done by Me to Satan]*, it will not be forgiven him [for him there is no forgiveness]. [Matt 12:31; Mark 3:28-30] ”

Jesus said that the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) is unforgivable.
This has worried many sincere Christians, but it does not need to.
The unforgivable sin involves deliberate and ongoing rejection of the Holy Spirit's work and thus of God himself.
A person who committed this sin has shut themselves off from God so thoroughly that they are unaware of any sin at all. A person who fears having committed it shows, by their very concern, that they have not sinned in this way.

Luke 12:11-12 ***NKJV***
“Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

The disciples knew they could never dominate a religious dispute with the well-educated Jewish leaders. Nevertheless, they would not be left unprepared. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would supply the words they needed.

The disciples’ testimony might not make them look impressive, but it would still point out God’s work in the world through Jesus’ life. We need to pray for opportunities to speak for God, and then trust Him to help us with our words.
This promise of courage, however, does not compensate for a ***lack of preparation***. Remember that these disciples had three years of personal instruction and practical application. We must study God’s word. Then ***God will bring his truths to mind*** when we need them most, helping us present them most effectively.

Jesus tells the parable of the rich fool

Luke 12:13-15 ***NKJV***
“Then one from the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” But He said to him**, “Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?” And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”**

Problems like this were often brought to rabbis for them to settle. Jesus’ response, though not directly to the topic, is not a change of subject.
Rather, Jesus is pointing to a higher issue: a correct attitude toward the accumulation of wealth. Life is more than material goods; our relationship with God is far more important.

When we bring problems to God in prayer, **He** often responds in the same way, showing us how **we** need to change and grow in **our** attitude toward the problem.
This answer is often not what we were looking for, but it is more effective.

Luke 12:16-21 KJV
"And he spake a parable unto them, saying, **The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."**

Planning for retirement and preparing for life before death is wise, but neglecting life after death is **disastrous**. To make earthly gain or riches the desire of one's life is a fatal error that leads to eternal loss.

1. The Greek word for greed (*pleonexia)* literally signifies the thirst for having more. Pleonexia: the insatiable desire to have what rightly belongs to others. (Wikipedia)

2. Covetousness does not refer to providing for one's own needs and those of one's family.

While we labor for our needs, however, we must be rich toward God by seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness. Each one of us should heed Jesus' warning and examine whether selfishness and greed exist in our own hearts.

Jesus warns about worry

Luke 12:22-31 ***KJV***
"And he said unto his disciples, **Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?**

Jesus commanded us not to worry. But how can we avoid it?

Only faith can free us from the anxiety caused by greed and covetousness.
Working and planning responsibly is good.

- Dwelling on all the ways our planning could go wrong is bad

- Worry is pointless because it can't fill any of our needs

- Worry is foolish because the Creator of the universe loves us and knows what we need.
- He promises to meet our real needs, but not necessarily our desires.

Overcoming worry requires:

1. Simple trust in God, your heavenly Father. This trust is expressed by praying to him rather than worrying.

1. Perspective on your problems. This can be gained by developing a strategy for addressing and correcting your problems

2. A support team to help. Find some believers who will pray for you to find wisdom and strength to deal with your worries.

Seek ye the kingdom of God

Luke 12:29-31 ***KJV***
"And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you." Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart
be also. "

YOUR TREASURE…YOUR HEART

A person's heart (feelings, thinking, desires, values, will, and decisions) is attracted to the things that are most important to them.

1. If you treasure earthly things, then your heart will be enslaved to such things.

2. If God's kingdom, heavenly things, His Word, His presence, His Holiness, and your relationship to Him are your treasure, then your heart will be drawn to the things of His Kingdom and your life will be directed toward heaven, waiting for the return of the Lord.

Luke 12:32-34 ***KJV***
" **Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.** "

Seeking the kingdom of God means making Jesus the Lord and King of your life.
He must control every area: ***your work, your play, your plans, your relationships.***

- Is the kingdom only one of your main concerns, or is it central in everything you do?
- Are you holding back any areas of your life from God's control?

As your Lord and Creator, he wants to provide what you need and guide how you use what he provides.

Prepared for the Lord's Return

Luke 12:35-40 ***KJV (LOINS BE GIRDED…LIGHTS BURNING)***

"Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."
Concerning the Lord's coming for His people, the New Testament church had no attitude or perspective other than that it was near and could happen at any time.
Every believer was called to be spiritually ready at all times and to wait for the Lord's return.

This New Testament norm is enjoined on all true believers in Christ.

1. The believer must be so bound to the Lord as His "Greatest Treasure"(v.34) that his hope and longing are the return of Jesus (vv. 35- 37).

2. The believer must be dressed in readiness, waiting for the uncertain time of Christ's coming (vv. 38,40)

3. Christ's coming is imminent (He could come at any time. The believer must be waiting and looking for Christ himself, not for a complex series of events that might begin at any time.

When you think not: *God's servants must always be ready(believe and obey), because the Lord will come at an uncertain and unexpected time.*

The Faithful and Unfaithful Servants

Jesus uses this parable to illustrate the two possible ways of living open to every disciple in the light of His absence and promised return.

1. He can be faithful and obedient, ever watchful and spiritually ready for the Lord's return at any time, and he will receive the blessing of His Master

2. He can grow careless and worldly-minded, believe that the Lord will delay His coming, cease to resist sin, and depart from the path of faithfulness; he will then receive the condemnation of God and inherit everlasting shame and ruin at His coming.

Luke 12:41-44 ***KJV***

"Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all? And the Lord said, **Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.**

(vv 45-46) **My Lord delayeth His Coming**

But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; the lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

Denying that Christ may return at any time to judge the careless, indifferent disciple takes away the force of Christ's exhortation to persevere in faith in light of His unexpected coming. It is precisely because there is no more chance for spiritual repentance and change when He returns that His coming is so perilous for apostate believers. In other words, Christ's coming is like death: it is final, and can happen at any time.

(vv. 47-48)
And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

Beaten With Few Stripes:

Just as there are degrees of glory in the new heaven and earth (1 Cor. 15:41-42), so there are also degrees of suffering in hell. Those who are eternally lost will undergo different grades of punishment according to their privileges and responsibilities (Mat. 23:14; Heb.10:29).

Jesus has told us how to live until he comes:

- We must watch for him
- Work diligently
- Obey his commands
- Such attitudes are especially necessary for leaders.

Watchful and faithful leaders will be given increased opportunities and responsibilities.
The more resources, talent, and understanding we have, the more responsible we are to use them effectively. God will not hold us responsible for gifts he has -

Luke 12:49-50 ***KJV***
" **I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straightened till it be accomplished!** "

The "baptism" to which Jesus referred was his coming crucifixion.
He was dreading the physical pain, of course, but even worse would be the ***spiritual pain of complete separation from God*** that would accompany his death for the sins of the world.

Luke 12:51-53 ***KJV***
"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: for from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

In these strange and unsettling words, Jesus revealed that his coming often resulted in conflict. He demands a response, and close groups can be torn apart when some choose to follow him and others refuse to do so. Jesus allows no middle ground.

Loyalties must be declared and commitments made, sometimes to the severing of other relationships.
Are you willing to risk your family's approval to follow the Lord Jesus Christ?

Jesus warns about the future crisis

Luke 12:54-59 ***KJV***
“And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is. And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass. Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time? Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right? When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, as thou art in the way, give diligence that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and the officer cast thee into prison. I tell thee, thou shalt not depart thence, till thou hast paid the very last mite.”

For most of recorded history, the world’s principal occupation was farming.
The farmer depended directly on the weather for his livelihood.
He needed just the right amounts of sun and rain; not too much, not too little, to make his living, and he grew skilled in interpreting natural signs.

Jesus was announcing an earth-shaking event that would be much more important than the year's crops…The coming of God’s Kingdom.

The Kingdom, like a rainstorm on a sunny day, was giving signs that it would soon arrive.
But Jesus’ hearers, though skilled at interpreting weather signs, were intentionally ignoring the signs of the times.

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Presenter: Eddie Poindexter- Pastor

Resources:
Life Application Study Bible - KJV
(The Full Life Study Bible- KJV)
An International Study Bible for Pentecostal and Charismatic Christians
ZONDERVAN STUDY BIBLE-NIV
Wikipedia
Websters Dictionary
Google
Gemini
ChatGPT