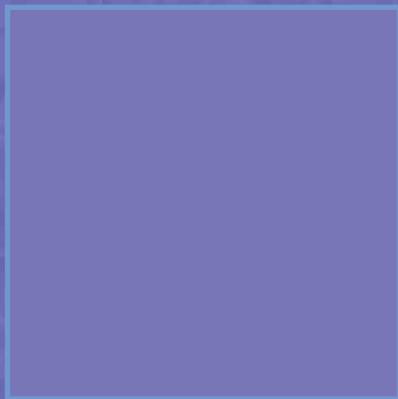


C H A P T E R



1. Please, read this chapter at least twice. It is filled with warnings and encouragements.
2. The last chapter ended with Jesus speaking words of woe to the Pharisees and teachers of the law. They presented themselves as religious leaders to be followed, but they were blind leaders. Chapter 12 opens with a crowd of an innumerable multitude present to see Jesus. Who did Jesus direct his attention and his teaching to in verse 1?
3. Jesus gives his disciples a warning. What did he warn them about?
4. Define hypocrisy.
5. In Luke 12:2, Jesus warns against the actions of the Pharisees. He calls it the “yeast” or “leaven” of the Pharisees. What is the habit and perpetual activity of the Pharisees that is long-established and unlikely to change?

This type of sin can be very subtle at first, but extremely dangerous. What did Jesus say was their sin?

6. Read 1 Corinthians 5:6, what do we know about leaven or yeast?  
1 Corinthians 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?
7. Do you believe the Pharisees knew what they were doing?  
Was their problem a lack of knowledge of the truth?  
Did their words say one thing, while their actions showed another?
8. Would you say this is an ongoing problem today?  
People have heard the truth but choose to live as they please?
9. What is implied if one is a religious leader?
10. These religious leaders would have been very familiar with the law and the prophets. God had not made it complicated.

Read Exodus 20:3-17.

Then read Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus narrowed it down even more.

Lastly read Micah 6:8.

Did the Pharisees have any real excuse?

Exodus 20:3-17

*“You shall have no other gods before me.”<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself an image...*

*<sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them...<sup>7</sup> “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God ...*

*<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy...*

*<sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother...*

*<sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup> “You shall not steal.*

*<sup>16</sup> “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup> “You shall not covet...*

Matthew 22:37-39

*Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

Micah 6:8

*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

11. Jesus warns there is coming a day when all things will be brought to light, even the things done in secret. Jesus speaks directly to those who are his true followers, “do not be afraid of those who kill the body and can do no more.” Why do you believe Jesus is taking time to speak these words to his followers?

Is hatred and opposition to the point of death a real possibility for them?  
Did you notice what Jesus called those he is warning in verse 4?

Love is an action word. How has Jesus demonstrated his special love for them?  
What has he done differently for these who are closest to him?

## Day TWO

12. Have you ever faced fear of persecution or rejection because of your beliefs?  
Have you ever watered down your convictions to save the peace?  
Was it worth it?

Satan likes to tempt us to weaken our stand, but afterward he is the first to accuse us.

13. Jesus reminds them God cares and is aware of all that is happening, even to the smallest and seemingly insignificant of creatures like a sparrow. What encouragement is given in Luke 12:7?  
What is the promise found in verse 8?
14. Luke 12:10 is often misunderstood or misapplied. Many people believe this is the sin of taking the Lord’s name in vain. While that is a vile and terrible sin, it is not the unpardonable sin.  
What sin will not be forgiven?
15. Define the word blasphemy.

It will be very helpful to look this word up in the Strong’s Concordance. The Strong’s is the most complete, easy-to-use, and understandable concordance for studying the original languages of the Bible and is free online.

16. We saw this sin in the last chapter. What were the Pharisees saying in Luke 11:14-16?
17. Have you ever found yourself in a spot where you were either going to take a stand for Christ or deny him?

Maybe that has not happened to you, but you wonder what you would do if it did. What amazing promise we are given in Luke 12:11-12?

18. Luke 12:13-21, Jesus tells a parable. Remember, a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Jesus was asked, by someone in the crowd, if he would help him get his brother to share the inheritance. Jesus did not come to be the judge of family situations. The brother must have been present in the crowd because Jesus began to teach on greed. The first-born's birthright involved a double portion of the household estate and the leadership of the family, if his father became incapacitated or was absent for some reason (Deuteronomy 21:17). After the father's death, the eldest son usually cared for his mother, until her death, and provided for his unmarried sisters. Write out the warning found in verse 15. What was the problem in this family?

Can family inheritances still be a problem today?

Please, pay close attention, with open eyes and ears, to discern God's will, if you are in a situation like this.

19. Jesus said, "...all kinds of greed." This must mean there are different kinds. Define greed.

Can you think of a few different types of greed?

20. Look at Colossians 3:5 NIV How are believers instructed to respond to the things found on this list?

Colossians 3:5

***Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.***

(Look at the friends greed keeps company with)

This verse states that greed is idolatry. Think about that for a few minutes and tell why greed is idolatry.

21. What is it called when one is so insecure about the future, they cannot part with even the smallest of items?

(The accumulation of mass amounts of stuff) This person is said to be a \_\_\_\_\_.

22. What is it called when one confuses wants and needs and ends up deep in debt?

They are accused of \_\_\_\_\_ their bank account.

23. What is it called when one is constantly looking at all their neighbor has, and they are driven to get more?

This person is \_\_\_\_\_.

24. What is it called when one is feels that they are owed more? They often feel they have a right to things. They feel \_\_\_\_\_.

25. It is easy to point out greed in others. Why is it so difficult to see and identify in our own heart?

26. Greed is a dangerous breeze for us to allow to drift into our heart. Much like carbon monoxide filling a house, it comes in slowly and often goes undetected. However, it has deadly effects.

Read 1 Timothy 6:9-10

What has it caused some to do?

1 Timothy 6:9-10

***Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.***

27. Often in the scripture, believers are compared to sheep. Sheep eat with their heads down, seldom looking where they are headed. They wander as they graze. This is a picture of one who allows even the slightest greed to motivate their actions.  
What is the eventual result of one who drifts at sea or wanders off the path?

28. What is the opposite of greed?

29. What would you say is the remedy for wandering in greed? Read Psalm 51:10

Psalm 51:10

*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

30. Read Proverbs 31:20. What is this woman busy doing?

Proverbs 31:20 *She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.*

31. If you are having trouble identifying greediness in your own heart, look up Proverbs 21:26. Which of these better describes you?

Proverbs 21:26

*All day long he craves for more, but the righteous give without sparing*

32. The last thing I want us to look at is how far unattended greed will take us. Judas Iscariot was chosen by Christ to follow him, as part of his inner circle of disciples. We do not know much about this man, other than he carried the money for the group as they travelled. (John 12:6) He would help himself to the contents when he so desired. Little by little, day after day, Judas became consumed; in the end how far did this sin take him? Read Matthew 26:14-16.

John 12:6

*... he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.*

Matthew 26:14-16

*Then one of the Twelve, the one called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests, and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you?" And they set out for him thirty pieces of silver. So from then on Judas looked for an opportunity to betray Jesus.*

33. Jesus gives a clear warning in verses 20-21. Each of us should pause and look at our heart and make careful evaluation. Why did he say this is so important?

What did Jesus call this person in verse 20?

It is the Greek word Aphron, means without reason, senseless, foolish, stupid.

34. Jesus is not saying the problem is being rich. Rather, are you rich in the things of God?  
Are you laying up treasure in heaven?  
Are you rich in generosity?

35. Greed and worry tend to be very close friends. Where you spot one you will soon find the other. Think about your walk of faith. What are you doing to guard against these two?

36. Have you ever been caught unprepared for something? You knew it was coming but you simply had neglected to pay enough attention to the time. What feelings did this cause?
37. Has anxiety, fear, or worry ever done anything positive for you?
38. Still speaking to his disciples, Jesus encouraged them not to worry. Do not let anxiety over your needs cause you to fret. What two things from nature does Jesus encourage us to consider?

What does God do for them?

39. Write out Luke 12:34 in your own words, adding your name to the verse.
40. In Luke 12:35, Jesus calls his followers to listen and respond. What is his instruction?
41. When someone repeats themselves, it is often because they believe their statement(s) to be of utmost importance. When it is Jesus, we should take great care to think carefully about what it is he just said to us.  
What did Jesus say his servants will be blessed if he finds them doing in the verse 37 and 38?
42. In verses 42-48, Jesus is speaking to his disciples and to us, the church. Our Master has gone away but he will return soon. Who has the Master left in charge to feed and care for all that belongs to him?
43. If we are faithful with what the Lord has placed in our care, what will be his response at his return?
44. In verses 49-53 we are told, this world is not our home. Even in the best of family situations, we will find there can be division. Jesus does not want us to be unaware of the trials we may experience because we love and serve him. How bad does the scripture tell us the division could get for some?
45. Turning to the crowd, Jesus tries to help them understand the future. Luke 12:54-59  
What acts of nature are they accustomed to discerning?
  - a. A cloud rising in the west \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. When the wind blows from the south \_\_\_\_\_.
46. What does Jesus call them in verse 56?  
This is a very harsh word. Go back and reread the end of verse 48  
Who do you suppose he is specifically addressing with this word?
47. After studying Luke 12, why should believers trust God and not worry over things?  
What does worry demonstrate?
48. How might our steadfast faith in God multiply itself in the hearts of those we are around each day?
49. Describe contentment?

50. Using your own definition of contentment would you say you are truly contented?
51. One of the Hebrew names for God is El Shaddai, which translated means, the All-Sufficient One, the source of all blessings. He is Immanuel, God with us. He is Jehovah, the great I AM, the Self-Existent One. He is Jehovah Jireh, the LORD who will provide. He is El Elyon, the God Most High. He is Jehovah-Rohi, the LORD my Shepherd. He is Jehovah-Shalom, the LORD our peace. He is El Roi, the God who sees. Can our problems ever be too big for our God to handle?
52. 'Anxiety, fear, and worry' was a huge part of the news and conversations, in the year 2020. The Covid virus became a worldwide pandemic. Almost overnight, everyone's world looked and felt different. What was the One constant?

Who was the only One who was unchanged by this virus?

53. I am not looking to put you on the spot, but have you looked to the Father and trusted Him to care for you as you navigate your way through the new normal in our world today?
- Or have you been plagued with anxiety and fear?
54. Benjamin Franklin said, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." Even the business world understands this concept. Planning involves selecting objectives and deciding on the actions to achieve them. It involves choosing a course of action from the alternatives. Planning bridges the gap between where we are and where we want to be. For the believer it helps us make the right choices so we can look back knowing we walked in obedience. One thing about going through something this difficult, we now have experience to better deal with life's problems the next time. What will you do differently the next time difficulty rocks your world?

