



Luke 12, 13, 14

First Presbyterian Church Charlotte

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- What's in these Chapters?
- What are some of the themes?
- What are messages for us today?

- A thorough overview,
- with focus on a couple of passages.
- Open with prayer.

Jesus Teaches “On the Road”

- 9:51. As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.
- 12:1. Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples...

After advice on doing and coping with ministry in 9-11, Luke now turns to more personal motivation issues in 12-14!

Again, using a spiral style (coming back around to same issues more deeply).

Questions to ponder before Luke 12 – 14

- Who do you want to impress?
- Who motivates you?
- What motivates you?
- What are you worried about?
- Who do you care about?

Possible answers in no order

Dad, Mom, Spouse, Family

Money

Boss

God, Jesus

Church

Friends

Important people

Security

Rulers, Authorities

Success, Status

Don't Fear Persecution

- 12:4-7. “Do not be afraid of *those who kill the body.*” Fear God, who cares even for sparrows, and for you much more.
- **12:8-12.** Publicly acknowledge Jesus before *authorities* and others; never speak against the Holy Spirit.
- 13:1-5. Pilate killed Galileans who were offering sacrifices. A tower fell on others. Jesus says deaths were not judgement. Be ready.
- 13:31-33. Jesus “presses on” despite threats from Herod.

Pope in Iraq. Minorities in America. We are privileged to be unaware.

Peer Pressure?

Don't Worry about Money

- 12:13-21. Tell brother to divide inheritance? “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” Parable of Rich Fool who built bigger barns and died.
- **12:22-34.** Do not worry about what you will eat or wear. Consider the lilies. “But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.” Give to the poor, make a treasure in heaven. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Be Ready for Ultimate Accountability

- 12:35-48. Be ready when master comes unexpectedly. Peter, “us or everyone?” **Care** for others like good manager, ready for master’s return. Disciples are responsible for even more; “given much, much will be demanded.”
- **12:54-59.** “Try hard to be **reconciled**” (not judgmental) to your adversary. Otherwise, you may be judged guilty.
- **13:6-9.** Unfinished Parable: **Fruitless** fig tree should be cut down, but caretaker says let me take care of it for another year.

Salvation by Grace and Faith, but held responsible for response to God

Priority of Jesus over Family Loyalty

- 9:57-62. “Follow me.” But let me bury my father or say goodbye to my family. “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”
- 12:49-53. Jesus may bring division within families.
- 14:25-35. “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” Plan to bear the cost and be resolute.

Hyperbole in comparison to love of God. (Love God and neighbor! 4th Com.)

Matt 15:1-6. Father and mother more important than a Pharisee tradition.

John 19:25-27. Jesus cares for His mother from the cross.

What is our ultimate priority? Same answer to all opening questions?

Religion can split families. Gentile, Jew, Tradition? Fiddler on the Roof.

Who is Important?

Who is Worth Caring About?

Luke 13: 10 – 17. Jesus heals crippled woman on the Sabbath.

Luke 14: 1 – 11. Jesus at a Pharisee's Feast.

Luke 14: 12 – 24. The Parable of the Great Banquet.

Luke 14. One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. ² There in front of him was a man suffering from abnormal swelling of his body. ³ Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?” ⁴ But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him on his way. ⁵ Then he asked them, “If one of you has a child or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull it out?” ⁶ And they had nothing to say.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸ “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹ If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹ For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” ¹⁵ When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” ¹⁶ Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ ¹⁸ “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ ¹⁹ “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ ²⁰ “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ ²¹ “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ ²² ““Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ ²³ “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴ I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

The Great Banquet by Eugène Burnand



Luke 14: 12 – 24.

Paradox of the Narrow Door and Broad Grace

- 14:16-20. Self-important excuses disqualify the invited.
- **13:22-28.** Narrow door of salvation.
- 13:34-35. Jesus longs to help Jerusalem; they are not willing.
- 18:18-**25.** Easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.
- 14:21-23. Marginalized compelled to fill the house.
- **13:29.** People from east and west and north and south...
- 13:18-21. Kingdom of God is like mustard seed and like yeast.
- **18:26-27.** “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

How can we welcome the marginalized? How can we be the marginalized?

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Possible answers

Rich Neighbors, Peer Pressure?

Money, Possessions?

Overly consumed by Family?

Respond to God's Love & Grace!

Do God's Will! Be ready

Care for everyone!

Especially the marginalized!

Discussion Questions:

- What **idea from** the study of **Luke 12-14** is meaningful to you today?
- **Who and what should motivate us?**
- What do you learn from the **Great Banquet** parable?

Share your thoughts!