

## Jesus Teaches about Earthly Concerns Luke 12:1-21

### Exhortation to Spiritual Alertness

<sup>1</sup> In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first *of all*, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

<sup>2</sup> For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. <sup>3</sup> Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.

<sup>4</sup> "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. <sup>5</sup> 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! <sup>6</sup> "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. <sup>7</sup> But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>8</sup> "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. <sup>9</sup> But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God. <sup>10</sup> "And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven. <sup>11</sup> "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. <sup>12</sup> For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

### The Parable of the Rich Fool

<sup>13</sup> Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup> 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."

<sup>16</sup> Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. <sup>17</sup> And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup> So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' <sup>21</sup> "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

### Questions:

1. Notice vs 1 "in the meantime".. Where was the multitude and why would they be trampling each other? Just before this where was Jesus and what was He talking about? (Luke 11:37-54)
2. Why does Jesus call hypocrisy the "leaven" of the Pharisees? How does leaven work? (1 Cor 5:6-8)
3. What was it about the example of the Pharisees that made it tempting to follow? Why do we still need to be on guard against falling into this same misleading style of religious appearance?
4. How long does a hypocrite think they can get away with deceiving other people? When will it all come out? (Romans 2:16; Hebrews 4:13)
5. Why do Christians need to be reminded not to fear men, but rather we should fear God? vs 4-6
6. How does fear affect whether we are willing to confess Jesus before men? How does this also confront us with the need to examine who we should fear, men or God? vs 8-9
7. Why would a word against the Son of Man (Jesus) be forgiven, but not speaking against (blaspheming) the Holy Spirit? (Consider how Paul blasphemed Jesus, but he was forgiven, 1 Tim 1:13.) How did some blaspheme the Holy Spirit in Matt 12:22-32?
8. What divine encouragement did Jesus here give to his disciples to help us not back down in the fear of men? (see vs 6-7 and also vs 11-12)
9. In vs 13-14 why did Jesus refuse to get involved in settling the family dispute between the two brothers over the family inheritance?
10. What else does Jesus warn his disciples about in vs 15? Why aren't acquiring possessions what life consists of?
11. What mistakes did the rich man Jesus told about make? Was it wrong for him to be a farmer who was thinking of how to grow his business? Where did he go wrong and what is the warning in this for us?