



Fire from Heaven

Greed, Preparation for End Times, and Fire

Context: Luke 12

Outline

Lesson 1 – Greed

(Luke 12:13-34)

Lesson 2 – Ready or Not

(Luke 12:35-48)

Lesson 3 – Christ Kindled Fire

(Luke 12:49-59)

Jesus preaches on greed, warns us to be prepared for His second coming, and illuminates His purpose in coming the first time.

Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship
2. Take prayer requests
3. Pray
4. Read the lesson text aloud from the Bible (You may want to do this one question at a time.)
5. Answer and briefly discuss the “fill in the blank” questions. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer.
6. On the final “Think & Pray” question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.
7. Discuss your Think & Pray answers. Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.
8. Close in prayer
9. Fellowship

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called “For Further Thought”



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Lesson 1 – Greed (Luke 12:13-34)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[1A] Luke 12:13 Who asked Jesus to tell someone else to share an inheritance? _____

[1B] Luke 12:14 How did Jesus respond to the request? _____

[1C] Luke 12:15 What are we to be on guard against? _____

[1D] Luke 12:16-21 What did God call the man? _____

[1E] Luke 12:22 What are we NOT to worry about? _____

[1F] Luke 12:23 What is more than food? _____

[1G] Luke 12:24 Who feeds the birds? _____

[1H] Luke 12:25-26 How many hours can be added to your life by worrying? _____

[1I] Luke 12:27 Do the flowers of the field work at being beautiful? _____

[1J] Luke 12:28 Who can we count on to keep us clothed? _____

[1K] Luke 12:29-32 How does God feel about giving us His kingdom? _____

[1L] Luke 12:33 Where can no thief steal from? _____

[1M] Luke 12:34 Where will your heart be? _____

[1N] In Luke 12:15 Jesus implies there are many different kinds of greed. Please list several kinds of greed and explain how they are alike, and how they are different.

Think & Pray _____



Lesson 1 – Greed (Luke 12:13-34)

[1A] Luke 12:13 Who asked Jesus to tell someone else to share an inheritance? Someone the crowd

[1B] Luke 12:14 How did Jesus respond to the request? He asked who made Him the judge

[1C] Luke 12:15 What are we to be on guard against? Every form of greed

[1D] Luke 12:16-21 What did God call the man? Fool Lk 12:20

[1E] Luke 12:22 What are we NOT to worry about? Our life

[1F] Luke 12:23 What is more than food? Life

[1G] Luke 12:24 Who feeds the birds? God

[1H] Luke 12:25-26 How many hours can be added to your life by worrying? None

[1I] Luke 12:27 Do the flowers of the field work at being beautiful? No

[1J] Luke 12:28 Who can we count on to keep us clothed? God

[1K] Luke 12:29-32 How does God feel about giving us His kingdom? Glad Lk 12:32

[1L] Luke 12:33 Where can no thief steal from? Heaven

[1M] Luke 12:34 Where will your heart be? With whatever you treasure

[1N] There are many forms of Greed. Greed for wealth is obviously the first thing that comes to mind, but wealth just by itself is often just the means to obtain something else we want. We might just want a lot of money in the bank but we also might be greedy for physical comfort, abundant possessions, power, influence, fame, respectful treatment, privileges, pleasure or any number of other things. Maybe we just want a window with a good view. The point is not the object of the greed, but the heart that has greed. These forms of greed are all alike because they all come from a sinful nature in man, from our selfish desire to have what we want, when we want it, with little or no regard for others. They are different because we are greedy after different things, or because various things are more or less important to different people.

For further thought:

(1o) What kind of greed is Paul talking about in 1 Timothy 6:9-10? How can we guard against being deceived by this kind of greed?

(1p) Compare Luke 12:13-34 with Exodus 20:17 and Deuteronomy 5:21. What did you learn?

(1q) What kind of greed is Matthew 6:19-21 talking about? How can we guard against being deceived by this kind of greed?

(1r) Compare Luke 12:13-34 with James 4:1-10. What did you learn?

(1s) What kind of greed is Matthew 23:5-8 talking about? How can we guard against being deceived by this kind of greed?

(1t) Compare Luke 12:13-34 with Matthew 6:25-33. What did you learn?

(1u) What kind of greed is Mark 7:21-23 talking about? How can we guard against being deceived by this kind of greed?

Lesson 2 – Ready or Not (Luke 12:35-48)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[2A] Luke 12:35 What are we to do with our lamps? _____

[2B] Luke 12:36 How soon was the door opened? _____

[2C] Luke 12:37 Who will serve the alert servant? _____

[2D] Luke 12:38 Which slaves are blessed? _____

[2E] Luke 12:39 Do we know when to expect thieves to come? _____

[2F] Luke 12:40 When will the Son of Man come? _____

[2G] Luke 12:42-43 Who gives the servants their rations on time? _____

[2H] Luke 12:44 Who decides who will be in charge? _____

[2I] Luke 12:45 What three evil things does the servant do? _____

[2J] Luke 12:46 When will the master come? _____

[2K] Luke 12:47-48 What mitigates the punishment of some of the servants? _____

[2L] Luke 12:48 From whom is much expected? _____

[2M] According to Luke 12:42 -48 what will happen to these kinds of people when Jesus returns:

[1] Everyone who has received many blessings from God	
[2] The servant who does not know any better, and does wrong	
[3] The faithful and sensible servant who is doing his Master's will	
[4] The servant who knew better but did not get ready	
[5] The servant who thinks there is plenty of time and does and mistreats others	
[6] Those who do not know better, but did right anyway	

So what?

Think & Pray _____

Lesson 2 – Ready or Not (Luke 12:35-48)

- [2A] Luke 12:35 What are we to do with our lamps? Keep them lit
 [2B] Luke 12:36 How soon was the door opened? As soon as there was a knock
 [2C] Luke 12:37 Who will serve the alert servant? The master
 [2D] Luke 12:38 Which slaves are blessed? Those who are alert
 [2E] Luke 12:39 Do we know when to expect thieves to come? No
 [2F] Luke 12:40 When will the Son of Man come? At an hour we do not expect Him to come
 [2G] Luke 12:42-43 Who gives the servants their rations on time? The faithful and sensible servant
 [2H] Luke 12:44 Who decides who will be in charge? The master
 [2I] Luke 12:45 What three evil things does the servant do? Violence, gluttony and drunkenness
 [2J] Luke 12:46 When will the master come? When he is not expected
 [2K] Luke 12:47-48 What mitigates the punishment of some of the servants? Ignorance
 [2L] Luke 12:48 From whom is much expected? Him to whom much was entrusted

[2M] According to Luke 12:42 -48 what will happen to these kinds of people when Jesus returns:

[1] Everyone who has received many blessings from God	The more we are blessed the more is expected of us Luke 12:48
[2] The servant who does not know any better, and does wrong	Will receive few lashes Luke 12:48
[3] The faithful and sensible servant who is doing his Master's will	Blessed, put in charge of all His possessions Luke 12:42-44
[4] The servant who knew better but did not get ready	Will receive many lashes Luke 12:47
[5] The servant who thinks there is plenty of time and does wrong and mistreats others	Cut to pieces and put in the same place as the unbelievers Luke 12:45-46
[6] Those who do not know better, but did right anyway	Not mentioned. Apart from God's guidance we cannot do right

Obviously we should be the faithful and sensible servant. Are you?

For further thought:

- (2n) What is the answer to Peter's question in Luke 12:41?
 (2o) What has God entrusted you with? How well are you taking care of it?
 (2p) Compare Luke 12:35-48 with Matthew 24:43-51. What is the same and what is different? So?
 (2q) Compare Luke 12:37 and John 13:3-8. What did you learn?
 (2r) In Deuteronomy 25:2 how guilty a wicked man was determined how severely he was punished. How does that compare with Luke 12:47-48? So what?

Lesson 3 – Christ Kindled Fire (Luke 12:49-59)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[3A] Luke 12:49 What had Christ come to do? _____

[3B] Luke 12:50 Jesus was distressed waiting for what? _____

[3C] Luke 12:51 Did Christ come to bring peace? _____

[3D] Luke 12:52 How will a five member household be divided? _____

[3E] Luke 12:53 Who will be against the daughter? _____

[3F] Luke 12:54 In that part of the world a cloud to the west meant probably what? _____

[3G] Luke 12:55 In that part of the world a south wind meant probably what? _____

[3H] Luke 12:56 Are we expected to understand the signs of the times? _____

[3I] Luke 12:57 Are we expected to know the difference between right and wrong? _____

[3J] Luke 12:58-59 Why is it good idea to settle out of court if we can? _____

[3K] Luke 12:57 implies we are supposed to know the difference between right and wrong. We all think we know the difference. If you are incorrect about knowing the difference, how would you know?

Think & Pray _____



Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.
— LUKE 12:51 NIV

Lesson 3 – Christ Kindled Fire (Luke 12:49-59)

[3A] Luke 12:49 What had Christ come to do? Cast fire upon the earth

[3B] Luke 12:50 Jesus was distressed waiting for what? A baptism

[3C] Luke 12:51 Did Christ come to bring peace? No (Not in this context. He did come to reconcile God to man.)

[3D] Luke 12:52 How will a five member household be divided? Two to three or vice versa

[3E] Luke 12:53 Who will be against the daughter? The mother

[3F] Luke 12:54 In that part of the world a cloud to the west meant probably what? Rain

[3G] Luke 12:55 In that part of the world a south wind meant probably what? Warmer weather

[3H] Luke 12:56 Are we expected to understand the signs of the times? Yes

[3I] Luke 12:57 Are we expected to know the difference between right and wrong? Yes

[3J] Luke 12:58-59 Why is it good idea to settle out of court if we can? We might lose in court

[3K] I believe my Christian walk increased significantly in maturity, when I realized my conscience is untrustworthy. I know that I have the capacity to talk myself into thinking things are righteous, when in fact they are only expedient or convenient. I now am a lot more serious about comparing my thoughts with Scripture and praying over my decisions. This has led to me being the beneficiary of a much increased knowledge of the difference between right and wrong, but I still do not trust my heart, nor do I think I have reached the end of my improvement in understanding.

For further thought:

(3l) Luke 12:56 implies we are to understand the signs of the times. Do you?

(3m) Is everyone in your extended family Christian? Are they all members of the same denomination? If you can answer yes to both these questions you are in a very small minority. How does your family handle the differences?

(3n) What baptism did Jesus mean in Luke 12:50? How do you know?

(3o) Compare Luke 12:51-53 with Micah 7:6. What did you learn?

(3p) Compare Luke 12:51-53 with Matthew 10:21 & 34-38. What did you learn about what Jesus meant?

(3q) What did you learn in this course that you would like to remember?

(3r) If someone asked you what this Luke chapter 12 was about, what would you tell them?

(3s) What scripture from this course would be best to memorize? Why?