


Luke 12

“You Must
Be Ready”



THE GOSPEL OF
LUKE

Sunday,
April 12

At the conclusion of [Luke 11](#), we heard about scribes and Pharisees who had started pressing Jesus hard to provoke him, lying in wait to catch him in something he might say. [Luke 12](#) opens with so many thousands of people gathering around Jesus that they were tramping one another. Notice what Jesus said to his disciples in this moment:

“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.” ([12:1-3](#))

Luke 12 is full of warnings Jesus gave his disciples.

“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear...” ([12:4-5](#))

“And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.” ([12:8-9](#))

“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ([12:15](#))

“So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.” ([12:21](#))

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.” ([12:22-23](#))

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” ([12:34](#))

“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning...” ([12:35](#))

“Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.” ([12:51](#))

“You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?” ([12:56](#))

Clearly, with face set towards Jerusalem ([9:51](#)), there were very serious matters on Jesus’ mind. So how does [Luke 12](#) help us grow in certainty about Jesus? Let’s talk about it...

For Class & Family Discussion:

- On more than one occasion in the Bible we read about “leaven” as an illustration. What did Jesus mean by warning his disciples about “the leaven of the Pharisees” (12:1)?
- In your own words, what is hypocrisy? What do hypocrites need to understand?
- How would you summarize Jesus’ teaching in 12:4-7 in your own words?
- Practically speaking, what does it mean to “acknowledge” Jesus before men (12:8)?
- What was Jesus communicating in 12:10-12?
- What is “covetousness,” and why must disciples “be on guard” against it (12:13-15)?
- How would you summarize Jesus’ point in 12:16-21?
- Of all the things Jesus could teach or clarify, why does it matter whether or not his disciples are “anxious” about their lives? What is Jesus really revealing in 12:22-31?
- “You also must be ready,” Jesus says, “for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (12:40). What do we need to understand and apply from this section of Luke’s “orderly account”?
- What is Jesus foretelling in 12:49-59? Why was it so important that the people around him “know how to interpret the present time” (12:56)?
- Remember the goal of Luke’s Gospel—“that you may have certainty” (1:4). How does Luke 12 help us grow in certainty about Jesus?