

## **Luke 12-14**

### **A Warning against Hypocrisy**

12 Meanwhile, when the crowd gathered in thousands, so that they trampled on one another, he began to speak first to his disciples, 'Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, that is, their hypocrisy. <sup>2</sup>Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>3</sup>Therefore whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops.

### **Exhortation to Fearless Confession**

4 'I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more. <sup>5</sup>But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! <sup>6</sup>Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. <sup>7</sup>But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

8 'And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God; <sup>9</sup>but whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God. <sup>10</sup>And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. <sup>11</sup>When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how you are to defend yourselves or what you are to say; <sup>12</sup>for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say.'

### **The Parable of the Rich Fool**

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' <sup>16</sup>Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup>And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?"' <sup>18</sup>Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?"' <sup>21</sup>So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

## **Do Not Worry**

22 He said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup>Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! <sup>25</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>26</sup>If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? <sup>27</sup>Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! <sup>29</sup>And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. <sup>30</sup>For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup>Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

32 ‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## **Watchful Slaves**

35 ‘Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

39 ‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

## **The Faithful or the Unfaithful Slave**

41 Peter said, ‘Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?’ <sup>42</sup>And the Lord said, ‘Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? <sup>43</sup>Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. <sup>44</sup>Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. <sup>45</sup>But if that slave says to himself, “My master is delayed in coming”, and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, <sup>46</sup>the

master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful. <sup>47</sup>That slave who knew what his master wanted, but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted, will receive a severe beating. <sup>48</sup>But one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

### **Jesus the Cause of Division**

49 ‘I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup>From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup>they will be divided: father against son  
and son against father,  
mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’

### **Interpreting the Time**

54 He also said to the crowds, ‘When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, “It is going to rain”; and so it happens. <sup>55</sup>And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, “There will be scorching heat”; and it happens. <sup>56</sup>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?’

### **Settling with Your Opponent**

57 ‘And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? <sup>58</sup>Thus, when you go with your accuser before a magistrate, on the way make an effort to settle the case, or you may be dragged before the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer throw you in prison. <sup>59</sup>I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.’

### **Repent or Perish**

13At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the

others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

### **The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree**

6 Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" <sup>8</sup>He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

### **Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman**

10 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. <sup>11</sup>And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup>When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, 'Woman, you are set free from your ailment.' <sup>13</sup>When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup>But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, 'There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.' <sup>15</sup>But the Lord answered him and said, 'You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? <sup>16</sup>And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?' <sup>17</sup>When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

### **The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

18 He said therefore, 'What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? <sup>19</sup>It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.'

### **The Parable of the Yeast**

20 And again he said, 'To what should I compare the kingdom of God? <sup>21</sup>It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

### **The Narrow Door**

22 Jesus went through one town and village after another, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup>Someone asked him, 'Lord, will only a few be saved?' He said to them, <sup>24</sup>'Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be

able. <sup>25</sup>When once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, "Lord, open to us", then in reply he will say to you, "I do not know where you come from." <sup>26</sup>Then you will begin to say, "We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets." <sup>27</sup>But he will say, "I do not know where you come from; go away from me, all you evildoers!" <sup>28</sup>There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrown out. <sup>29</sup>Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup>Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.'

### **The Lament over Jerusalem**

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' <sup>32</sup>He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." '

### **Jesus Heals the Man with Dropsy**

14 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. <sup>2</sup>Just then, in front of him, there was a man who had dropsy. <sup>3</sup>And Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, 'Is it lawful to cure people on the sabbath, or not?' <sup>4</sup>But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him, and sent him away. <sup>5</sup>Then he said to them, 'If one of you has a child or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a sabbath day?' <sup>6</sup>And they could not reply to this.

### **Humility and Hospitality**

7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup>"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; <sup>9</sup>and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup>For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

12 He said also to the one who had invited him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup>And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’

### **The Parable of the Great Dinner**

15 One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, ‘Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!’ <sup>16</sup>Then Jesus said to him, ‘Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. <sup>17</sup>At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, “Come; for everything is ready now.” <sup>18</sup>But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, “I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my apologies.” <sup>19</sup>Another said, “I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my apologies.” <sup>20</sup>Another said, “I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.” <sup>21</sup>So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, “Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.” <sup>22</sup>And the slave said, “Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.” <sup>23</sup>Then the master said to the slave, “Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. <sup>24</sup>For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.” ’

### **The Cost of Discipleship**

25 Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>‘Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, “This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.” <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

### **About Salt**

34 ‘Salt is good; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? <sup>35</sup>It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure heap; they throw it away. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!’