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NT 623/723: Gospel of Luke
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Week 7 Reading: Luke: 12-13

As we look at the 12th Chapter of Luke we find that Jesus is sitting and speaking with his disciples in the midst of the crowds. His message to them is regarding several things. First he tells them about hypocrisy of the Pharisees and not to be influenced by their phoniness. According to Stein, “Their hypocrisy, greed, and wickedness will be displayed (11:39) and they will be seen as graves full of corruption.” This is followed a warning to the disciples about whom they should truly fear followed by a word of encouragement that although God should be feared, but they should not be afraid. According to Stein, Luke wants to reveal to the reader that “They need to fear no one but God, for he alone controls their ultimate fate.”

In Luke 12:13-21 talks about two important themes in this particular pericope. The first is the issue of priorities and the second an attitude toward wealth. Stein states “In the face of God’s kingdom to be concerned about inheritance rights and goods is folly indeed. Better to focus on the kingdom and allow oneself to be wronged (1Cor. 6:7) than to allow greed (Luke 11:39) to control one’s life. Luke 12:22-34 continues to discuss the issue on possessions which include the various teachings of Jesus. However, Stein basically states that most of this material is traditional and the “mirror reading” of this material might suggest that Luke’s audience was predominantly materialistic and that he was trying to change their orientation, but this is mere speculation.”

Luke 12:35-48 focus on the parable of the Watchful Servant. In this particular pericope Stein focuses on three themes. First the command to be ready and make sure that your lamp filled with

oil in preparation for the return of Christ. Here Stein refers to those who are servants of Christ. Luke uses a comparison of being ready to that of the thief who breaks into the house of an owner who is broken into and the unawareness of the owner. Luke uses this metaphor with regard to the Son of Man coming at an hour when you do not expect him. According to Stein, the message of this particular parable was for the disciples as Jesus was entrusting the household to. Luke's main point was with regard to the Parousia. In verses 49-59. Stein discusses division that Jesus will bring which deals with the preaching of the gospel and the separation that it will bring. Stein states that the coming of Jesus was to divide God's people from repentance. Jesus uses the structure of the family as an example. This is the divine mission that Jesus came as fulfillment of the OT as Stein states "I have come."; "I have a baptism"; "I came to bring."

In Chapter 13, Luke continues to continue with the theme of repentance. Stein presents several scenarios with reference to tragedies and the reason that Jesus wanted to point out these examples was the fact that these individuals were not necessarily evil but these examples represented the audience's need to repent. As we move further in the chapter the parable of the fig tree is mentioned and the fact that it has not bared any fruit and the owner wishes to destroy it, but the vinedresser, Jesus, to give it just one more opportunity and if it does not bare fruit in the coming year, it will be cut down. This parable is symbolic for a last opportunity for the nation of Israel to repent before facing divine judgement according to Stein.

Once again Jesus has proven his authority by healing a crippled woman on the Sabbath day, an act that does not sit well with the Jewish authorities and exemplified their hostility toward Jesus in violation of their oral traditions. According to Stein, in this incident Christology takes second place to the pronouncement of the meaning of the Sabbath.

