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Luke Week 8 – Chapters 12 and 13

Luke is speaking to the disciples and assuring them of the way of true discipleship. He explains that the Pharisees are hypocritical in their practices of the law and with the people. The hypocrisy that is being displayed is made known and is evident with the Pharisee's character. We know that no one is right but the father, and the Pharisees deemed themselves righteous but it was all a lie. They were not humble individuals but rather a people who were seen as pompous. Jesus points out the hypocrisy of the Pharisees by making it none. He explains that Pharisees are not to be emulated or revered, but for them to look to Christ as the paradigm. Jesus makes it clear that one's life should reflect one's heart. It is from the heart that truth comes and when it is not from the heart the truth will be exposed. The Pharisee's displayed an outside image which did not reflect the heart. The disciples are warned not to fear man but that they should fear God who has the power to give life. The confession that's made with the mouth should line up with both words and deeds. Jesus reminds the disciples that he's omniscient and omnipotent as well as providential and not to worry, because he is and will be with them even in the midst of hard times. In spite of the Pharisee's leadership, the people still favored Jesus and sought his teachings. He also taught that they will have peace in the Spirit and will be given the right words to say during a confrontation. So don't worry, I will be with you.

The attitude for wealth should not be material things on earth but wealth should be seen in the form of eternal life. Whatever God has blessed you with, share by helping those in need. God

analogy of the rich fool expresses that his life wasn't his own and nothing that he had did he own. God owns everything and that he owns our lives. Get your life in order so that it lines up with the things of God. Luke further reinforces the issues of stewardship with the teaching of Jesus. He wants to make it very clear and understood that one should be an almsgiver to our neighbor at all times.

In this section Luke addresses the topic of the Parousia being delayed but in his understanding God was not delayed in the process of redemption. Here we see that Luke is still assured in the hope of Jesus is present. The leaders are warned and encouraged about their positions and responsibilities. Luke informs the disciples that your presence in the community doesn't give rewards or guarantee to salvation. You have to live a life that reflects God otherwise you can end up alongside the unbeliever.

Luke speaks of the divine mission of Jesus who has come in fulfillment of the Old Testament and he clearly understands this. Jesus has brought division by his teachings against the Pharisee's and he will bring division in the final judgment. The results of the judgment will depend on the attitude of those towards Jesus Christ.

Luke now directs his teaching to the crowd by explaining that the kingdom is present here on earth and the signs of Jesus are ever present. All you have to do is look and see the kingdom of God is before you. Luke stresses the urgency for reconciling with God now because to delay could be dangerous. It is evident that one must repent, confess and believe with a whole heart in Jesus and his teachings.

Chapter 13

The theme of what is right has been continued here in chapter 13. Luke is reiterating the message of repentance by John the Baptist. He is explaining that repentance is not only for the Galilean audience but for the entire audience listening to Jesus. The reminder of judgment for those who don't repent will die as those at the hand Pilate and also like those who perished at the tower of Siloam destroyed in A.D. 70. Jesus grieves, because he too like Jeremiah had preached the same message, and it fell on deaf ears and he wanted them to be spared of their indignations. This was important to Jesus that their lives were spared and that understand that what happened to Israel would certainly happen to them unless they repented and brought forth fruit. The fig tree represents the physical death of the audience but Israel represents the spiritual death if they do not repent. As the tree was given another chance to grow, as such, God showed the audience mercy and gives them a chance to hear, understand and adhere to.

Luke is still presenting a teaching motif of Jesus' power and authority of God. Leaders of the synagogue followed laws attentively. They saw nothing wrong with carrying Ox to get water, but found that Jesus was in violation by speaking healing to the woman on the Sabbath. Jesus calls the leader out to show their hypocrisy but also show that God has the power over the Sabbath. Christological point is that Jesus offers healing to present situation and a future situation. Luke continues to teach on present kingdom that has not yet fully come. It came to those whose hearts were right but for the rulers of this time were oblivious to Jesus' now present kingdom. The mustard seed and the yeast should denotes that the tiniest substance yields immeasurably. Just as God kingdom is seen now even greater will be revealed when he returns.

Luke continues the teachings of Jesus on this travel discourse. In this parable, the analogy of a door references Jesus who gives access upon repenting. God is in control of the door and his offers of his kingdom to Israel who ultimately reject but includes the Gentiles who accepts the offer. The qualification for entering the door of the kingdom is belief and repentance which brings salvation. This is a role reversal where the first will be last and the last will be first. The qualification for entering this door and be present in the kingdom is belief and repentance.

Here Luke refers to the warning of Herod and Jesus grieving over Jerusalem. Pharisees were denoted as having flawed character but some were actually concerned and passionate about Jesus, the Christian movement and they warned him of Herod's plot to kill him. Jesus is about is father's ministry carrying forth the message of his ministry just like John the Baptist. The plan to thwart the ministry from going forward would not materialize because he was destine to be in Jerusalem for the divine plan of His Resurrection to come to fruition. Since Jesus is rejected by Israel, he grieves over them because they still are not accepting the offer of salvation. Israel rejects first the prophet and then they reject the messenger. Their refusal and continuing practice of wrongdoing could no longer go unpunished. God gave them chances and their refusal brought them doom. Unlike the people of Nineveh who repented Israel did not.