



# THE FATHER DESIRES TO GIVE US HIS KINGDOM. FEAR NOT!

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LUKE 12

GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

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## **SCRIPTURE READING LUKE 12:32-40**

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**“32 “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**

**33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.**

**34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

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**3 35 “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,  
36 and be like men who are waiting for their master to  
come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open  
the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.**

**37 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds  
awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress  
himself for service and have them recline at table, and he  
will come and serve them.**

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**4 38 If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants!**

**39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into.**

**40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”” (Lu 12:32-40 ESV)**

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**THESE ARE THE WORDS OF THE LIVING GOD**  
**THANK YOU JESUS FOR TEACHING US TO**  
**FEARLESSLY TRUST IN OUR LOVING FATHER**  
**AMEN**

In this passage of Scripture, Jesus is teaching us about the Father's delight and good pleasure to give the kingdom to his disciples.

First, let us consider the context of this chapter. (Next slide)

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## CONTEXT OF LUKE CHAPTER 12

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- **1-3 Jesus teaches his disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy.**
- **4-8 Jesus tells his friends not to fear men but to have fear/reverence for God. He tells them how valued they are so that they are not to fear.**

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**7 8-12 Jesus teaches about the importance of acknowledging him before men and not denying him.**

**He tells them about the dire consequences of blaspheming against the Holy Spirit.**

**He also tells them that when they are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities not to be anxious about how they will defend themselves because the Holy Spirit at that moment will inspire them what to say.**

- 8** **13-21 Jesus teaches the crowd through the parable of the Rich fool. Jesus tells them to be on guard against covetousness because life does not consist of the material things we have. Trusting in our material possessions does not give us life. It will be worth nothing at the time of our death. Consequently, we are to be rich towards God rather than being rich towards ourselves by piling up physical treasures.**

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**22–33 Jesus teaches his disciples to seek first the kingdom of God and the necessities of life - their clothing, what they will eat and drink will be provided by God.**

**He teaches them to place their trust in God and not to worry and fret.**

**The disciples are to be different in their attitude from the nations of the world. We are to trust our Father because he knows all our needs and promises to provide.**

## FIRMLY ANCHORED IN GOD

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- **“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” (Lu 12:32 ESV)**

Jesus came to the earth, God in our flesh, to reveal the character of God, the character of his Father and of our Father. Only Jesus knows the Father and it is through his revelation that we come to know who God is.

Jesus calls his disciples, “little flock”. Jesus compared himself to a shepherd. Sheep have a tendency to be easily startled and fearful. Jesus tells them not to fear.

The reason we are not to fear is that God takes pleasure in giving the kingdom to those who place their trust in Jesus Christ and who accept him as their Lord and Saviour in faith. In fact, it is God’s desire that everyone should be saved. **“who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Ti 2:4 ESV).**

From Scripture, we know that not everybody will be saved because some will refuse salvation but that does not stop God’s desire for everyone to be in his kingdom.

Knowing God’s heart towards us, Jesus instructs us how to live in his grace here on earth.

As we read these verses, we need to remember that Jesus is the author and the

finisher of our faith.

He is the captain of our salvation.

He is the pioneer. He is the firstfruit.

He paved the way for us. Having taken our fallen human nature, he lived the perfect life for us as our perfect substitute.

United to him that we receive righteousness. We do not rely on our righteousness but on his.

Jesus completely met the requirements of the two greatest commandments for us as he lived perfectly as a man having taken on our fallen nature.

The two greatest commandments Jesus said are the following, **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27).**

As we become united to Christ, through the Holy Spirit, he changes our heart of stone to hearts of flesh. He gives us a new life. The apostle Paul tells us that he gives us his mind, his outlook because as we abide in God, God abides in us. Therefore, we have the mind of Christ indwelling in us through the Holy Spirit.

Secure in the Father’s love and having been rescued from the kingdom of this world to be part of the kingdom of God, Jesus gives us instructions on how to trust him and how to be faithful to Him in his grace. Remember, this is all a free gift from God.

As we read these passages, it is important to remember is a gift of grace. **“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Eph 2:10 ESV)**

## || WHERE ARE SECURITY AND TRUST IS

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- **“33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Lu 12:33-34 ESV)**

This passage refers to an attitude of giving. Our trust is not the material things, money or others opinion of us. Being secure in Christ, we are able to share our possessions with others who are in need.

This is not a scripture that condemns pension plan or savings for a rainy day. He is talking about an attitude of the heart.

We need to consider all the counsel of God as we read the Scriptures. For example, the apostle Paul wrote that God loves a cheerful giver. The apostle Paul writes about disciples who had first given themselves to God and then to the apostles to generously give to the poor in Jerusalem. The following is what he wrote:

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- **“6 ¶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**
  - **7 Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work**

**13 . 9 As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”**

**10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.**

**11 You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.” (2Co 9:6-11 ESV)**

Jesus was making a point using very strong language to show the disciples to put their hearts in God’s kingdom and not in this world’s kingdom.

For example, in the Beatitudes, Jesus was teaching against lust and how lusting after another woman was committing adultery. He said, **“If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.” (Mt 5:29 ESV).**

Jesus was using strong language to make a point. He was not asking men to literally tear out and try their eyes away.

If we place our treasure on earthly things, our hearts will be on earthly things. If we place our treasure on heavenly things, on the kingdom of God, that is where our treasure will be.

We will be able to be generous to those in need knowing that God will provide for us. The church in Laodicea fell into the trap of trusting in their physical riches. God corrected them because of their erroneous and troublesome perception. They had become lukewarm. Jesus said that he would spit them out of his mouth because of it.

(Next slide)

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**“17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.**

**18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.” (Re 3:17-18 ESV)**

Humanly speaking, it is easy to deceive ourselves.

Everything we have belonged to God. God gives and we are to trust him to share with others in need trusting God to provide. This means to sacrificially give.

The treasurer in heaven will never fail and cannot be robbed.

*If we take Jesus too literally, we might think that he is making a rule against retirement savings. But his point is really about our heart—what it is that we treasure. We should value the heavenly rewards even more than we do the earthly savings. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (v. 21). If we value the things that God values, then our heart will be right and our behavior will be right, too.*

*“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!” (vs. 22–23).*

*Here Jesus seems to be using a proverb of his day, applying it to the desire for money. If we look at things in a good way, we will see opportunities to do good, to be generous. But if we look selfishly, enviously, we will be in moral darkness, corrupted by*

our desires.

*What are we looking for in life—to get or to give? Are our bank accounts designed to serve ourselves, or to enable us to serve others? We are improved or corrupted by our goals. And if the inside is corrupt, if we are seeking only the rewards of this world, we are corrupt indeed.* (from GCI from Exploring The Word of God 4 Gospel pages 93–

94)

God, a good Father, will take care of us if we put him first. We need not worry about human opinion, and we do not need to worry about money and things.

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (v. 33). We will live long enough, we will eat enough, we will have enough, if we have God. (idem)

The treasure in heaven is being united in Christ in the eternal relationship of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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## BEING READY ALWAYS

- **“You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Lu 12:40 ESV)**

Being in Christ, being in God’s grace, does not mean that we are to be lazy.

In the next verses, from 35 to 40, Jesus is telling his disciples to be diligent as they live in his grace. We do not know when Jesus will come to this earth. We only know that it is closer than it was yesterday or this morning when we woke up! Every generation of the disciples of Jesus was hoping that he would return in their lifetime. He didn’t. The same applies to us. He might come in our lifetime and he might not.

Our treasure is secure in heaven.

Jesus came to the earth to serve. In the fullness of the Kingdom, Jesus tells us that he is coming to serve!!!

**“Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.” (Lu 12:37 ESV)**

What a wonderful loving God we serve! Let us praise him secure in His love! In his greatness, he serves us. He has our well-being in mind. His desire is to give us his

kingdom! He is so generous towards us. The thankful response is to be generous to Him and generous towards others with the rich provisions he gracefully shares with us!

Let us pray.