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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Luke 12.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Luke 12.

Topics.

- Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees.
- Do not fear those who kill the body.
- You are of more value than many sparrows.
- Whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.
- Life is not in the abundance of possessions.
- The parable of a man who lays up treasure and is not rich toward God.
- Do not be anxious about your life, nor about your body.
- You are of far more value are than the birds.
- Seek God's Kingdom and these things will be added to you.
- Blessed is the faithful servant whom Jesus finds when he comes.
- Everyone who is given much, of them much will be required.
- I have not come to give peace on earth, but rather division.
- You know how to interpret the sky, but not the present time.
- Make an effort to settle with your accuser before going to court.

The Previous Chapter: in the previous chapter Jesus taught the disciples how to pray, he cast a demon out of a man that was mute and was then accused of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul. Jesus spoke six woes to the Pharisees and the scribes were seeking to trap Jesus in something he might say.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

Beware of the Leaven of the Pharisees

Luke 12:1-3 ----- ¹In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. ²Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ³Therefore 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. (Matt 16:6, 11) (Mark 8:15).

Leaven: (zume) (zeo) means to ferment (as if boiling up), it is used in bread, figuratively it carries the idea of being hot, eager, zealous, fervent, spirited, enthusiastic or earnest, but is often used as a symbol of sin, hypocrisy and malice contrasted to unleavened which carries the idea of sincerity and truth.

Pharisees: means the separated ones.

They were rulers of the Jews and the most-strict and by far the most influential sect of the three prominent societies of Judaism that were around at the time of Christ (the Pharisees, Sadducees and Essences). Pharisees loved to wear distinguishing garb so as to be easily recognised and were found everywhere in Palestine not only in Jerusalem.

They made three contributions to Judaism so that ultimately Pharisaism and Judaism became almost synonymous. The changes the Pharisees made to the Jewish faith began in earnest after the Babylonian Captivity, the temple worship and the sacrifices had ceased so the Pharisees, scribes and Sadducees began to centre the activities of Judaism in Jewish law, tradition and in the religious rites of the Synagogues.

The three changes the Pharisees made to Judaism: -

1. **Jewish legalism:** the Scribes who were considered experts in interpreting the Scriptures studied the traditional exegesis of the Law which resulted in it becoming a major part of Jewish thought and giving Jewish legalism a great impetus during the New Testament era. The Pharisees closely associated with the scribes organised the followers of the scribes teaching in the Synagogues thus legalism became widespread in the Jewish faith.
2. **Formalised religion:** the Pharisees formalised the religion of the scribes and their interpretation of the law they placed it into the mind of Jewish faith and the practice of it in the synagogues and religious ceremony. The reason the scribes and Pharisees are often mentioned together in the New Testament is because though the Pharisees were not practical politicians like the more liberal Sadducees, they were the religious leaders of the Jews and the highest qualification for membership into the Pharisees was strict adherence to the Law (Oral or written).
3. **Organisation of Jewish religion:** after the seventy-year Babylonian captivity and the Maccabean Revolt (165 BC) the scribes increased tradition and adapted it with the Mosaic Law, but it was the Pharisees who formulated, developed and organised the scribes' teachings into Jewish religion itself. This increased focus on law and tradition resulted in separatism and an almost new religion, because much of it was the opposite from what had been handed down in the Covenant by the prophets.

The Pharisees became a Closely Organised Group

The Pharisees were very loyal to their own society and to each other, but separate from others and even their own Jewish people, they pledged themselves to obey all facets of the traditions to minutest detail and were sticklers to ceremonial purity. This developed into a feeling of superiority over other nations and people. From this superior feeling as well as religious emotion, pride found its most extreme expression.

The Pharisees were haughty and arrogant because they believed they were the only interpreters of God's word. They made life difficult for themselves and bitter for others, and despised those whom they did not consider their equals. The Pharisees cultivated a national and religious consciousness, which has hardly been equalled. Their teaching that salvation came by maintaining tradition and keeping the law had such a strong influence on the minds of their followers that God's grace was thought to come from self-effort rather than grace so it was only natural that such a religion would ultimately become a matter of externals and not a faith of the heart.

For further information see title: -

- Sanhedrin in, Bible Dictionary (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Hypocrisy means: hypocrites and carries the idea of an actor under an assumed character (stage-player). It means to decide (speak or act) under a false part, to disguise, conceal, mask, cover, cloak, pretend, counterfeit or fabricate a thing.

Leaven of the Pharisees.

Jesus words: -

- Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known (v2).

Is spoken in the context of hypocrisy and pretence Christ's words refer to hypocrites especially the religious leaders of his generation (the Pharisees) they wore religious robes and loved the best seats in the synagogues on the outside they appeared to the people as religious, but Jesus accused them of being full of hypocrisy, greed and wickedness on the inside (Luke 11:39-52).

When they were in the public eye they put on a display of holiness, but when they were away from the crowds they were far from being righteous. Jesus in these verses is saying, whatever a religious hypocrite has said in secret or hidden about themselves will be revealed to all nothing will be hidden thus the reason it so important to acknowledge (confess) our faults to God and live honestly before Him and others.

Confessing our faults to God, means we are acknowledging them to ourselves we are not pretending as the hypocritical self-righteous Pharisees were that we are without sin. Acknowledging our sin is absolutely critical because if a person does not acknowledge their faults how can they work on overcoming them. The only people Jesus ever rebuked were the hypocritical religious leaders, (even the unsaved despise religious hypocrites).

Do not Fear those Who Kill the Body.

Luke 12:4-9 ----- ⁴"I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell (Gehenna). Yes, I tell you, fear him! ⁶Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows. ⁸"And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, ⁹but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

Hell: in this context is the English translation of the Greek word, Gehenna, which refers to the valley of the son of Hinnom; a valley of Jerusalem.

For further information regarding hell and Gehenna see: -

- Gehenna in, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Jesus and God have a different view to mortal life than what humanity does because mortal life compared to eternal life is but a fraction in time (i.e., a blink of the eye). The apostle Paul lived with the attitude that everything was as rubbish compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus his Lord and the glory to be revealed in those who belong to Christ at the resurrection. (Philip. 3:7-9) (Rom. 8:18).

Mortal, (temporary) life and eternal life is the focus of these verses, Jesus is saying do not pretend to be religious or holy to gain the favour of man, live honestly before others knowing that God knows exactly who you are. We may fool people, but we cannot fool God so fear God and not people. It is pointless to live a life of pretence on earth because no-matter how good an actor we maybe none of us can fool God.

You are of more Value than many Sparrows.

Jesus words, "You are of more value than many sparrows" (v7) are words of tremendous comfort for those facing death. Christ is saying to his disciples if God knows exactly what is happening to a sparrow when it dies and you are worth more to God than a sparrow then he will know exactly when you die.

Jesus is pointing out that nothing goes unnoticed before God even the hairs on our head are numbered, meaning God knows every detail of our lives and God not man has the power to judge to eternal life or eternal death so why live to please man who only has the power to take our mortal life. Jesus is saying, don't worry or stress about our life or fear if someone is going to take it because of our faith in Christ, because God will see the exact moment we die and raise us to eternal life.

Everyone who acknowledges Christ will be acknowledged before Angels.

Jesus words, "Everyone who acknowledges me before men, he will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God." (v8). Does not refer to a once of confession to believe in Christ, but carries the idea of an ongoing principal in our lives (i.e., we do not hide our faith from our families, our friends, those we know and people we work with).

This does not mean that we impose our faith onto them, but that we don't deny it or keep it hidden so as to be more accepted by the group etc. Keeping our faith secret is living to please man rather than living to please God. Jesus words are fabulously exciting to those who put Christ first in their lives because they know that he acknowledges them before the angels of God every time they acknowledge him, but tragic to those who deny him to gain the acceptance and approval of their unbelieving peers and friends etc.

Whoever Blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be Forgiven.

Luke 12:10 ----- ¹⁰And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

When and unsaved person speaks badly against the Lord Jesus Christ or uses his name as an expression of anger (a swear word) forgiveness is still available to them because they are speaking from ignorance and spiritual blindness they do not know who Christ is, but when a person who has been enlightened to who the Lord Jesus Christ is and experienced his love and grace, fellowshiped with those that belong to him and understand the Gospel message then speak against him and deny him there is no more forgiveness available to them while they are in this state, because they are denying the only one that God's forgiveness comes through.

The Holy Spirit will teach you what to Say.

Luke 12:11-12 ----- ¹¹And when they (the Jews) bring you (his disciples) (v1) before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, ¹²for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

In the previous chapter Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem knowing he would be mocked, cruelly tortured and crucified. After his death and resurrection the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes aggressively set about persecuting the newly established church.

Jesus is in these verses is preparing his disciples for future events that they will find themselves in because of the Gospel. Christ knows once he has ascended he will send the Holy Spirit to guide the disciples into all truth and bring to remembrance the things that he has told them (this event happened in Acts chapter 2).

Jesus is not an Arbitrator over Personal Problems or Affairs.

Luke 12:13-14 ----- ¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?"

Jesus did not come to be a judge over people's personal problems he came to proclaim the Gospel of eternal life and show humanity the way to live in harmony and peace, but leaves it up to each one of us to choose or not to choose to follow him and his ways.

Human life is not in the Abundance of Possessions.

Luke 12:15 ----- ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Covetousness: (pleonexia) (pleonektes) means, to be selfish, greedy and eager for gain, it's holding onto or desiring more than one has or needs (i.e. the practice greediness).

Covetousness and Covet refer to the following: -

- Selfishness and by implication fraudulency or extortion.
- A defrauder, greediness and selfish practices.
- To set the heart upon, to desire, long for or lust after (rightfully or otherwise).
- To greatly delight in beauty, a beloved or a sweetheart or someone cherished.
- To greatly delight in a delicious or tasty thing.
- A great desire or lust of or after a goodly, precious or pleasant thing.
- To be selfish, greedy and eager for gain.
- Holding onto or desiring more than one has or needs.

NOTE: covet and lust carry a very similar meaning and (Eph. 4:5) (Col. 3:5) say that covetous is idolatry.

Life is not in the Abundance of Possessions.

The world's system is such that many peoples self-esteem is based on the fact that they are wealthy and on the abundance of material possessions they own. This concept of self-esteem is made even more deceptive because the majority of the world's population esteem and exalts those who are extremely wealthy as an important or famous person, but in God's Kingdom a person should get there self-esteem not from any material possessions of this world, but from the fact they are a child of God, a brother or sister of the Lord Jesus Christ, they have God's favour, mercy and grace upon them and will inherit eternal life. These things are eternal whereas worldly riches and possessions can be taken at any time and will certainly be left behind when the possessor of them is lowered into the grave.

The Parable of a Man who lays up Treasure and is not Rich toward God.

Luke 12:16-21 ----- ¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

This parable follows on from the previous verse (v15) in which Jesus warned about covetousness. Jesus is using this parable to show the crowds what he means by coveting. Jesus in this parable is not teaching that it is wrong to prepare for old age (that is wisdom) but that it is foolish if a person places the value of their life in the temporary things of this world. The rich man's foolishness was not that he was rich his foolishness was that he was not rich toward God.

The moral Jesus is teaching is, don't lay-up treasure for yourself and not be rich toward God. For the man in this story with the excessive amount of wealth to be rich toward God he would have needed to share his abundance of wealth with those around him who were poor and in need rather than storing it all to himself. His crime was not that he was enormously rich but that he was selfish with it (he coveted his money).

Do not be Anxious about your Life, nor about your Body.

Luke 12:22-26 ----- ²²And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider 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! ²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?
²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?

Jesus is saying not to be greedy or stress over the things of this world or get caught up in the fashion industry (designer clothes etc.) or even about our health (i.e., whether we are going to die or not), but rather make God the most important focus in our life and in our minds and be content with what we have. The focus of what Jesus is saying is worry and anxiety, he is not saying do not plan for the future or take care of our health, but that we should not be mentally anxious or stressed over these things and especially things we have no control over. We need food and clothing to stay alive and yet Jesus says life is more than these.

Life in this context refers to the "State of our mind" that we live in, it conveys who we are on the inside, how we think and our attitude to life (i.e., is the state of our mind one of stress, worry and anxiety or one of peace and calm that can only come through totally surrendering our will (as Christ did at the garden of Gethsemane) to the will of God (even though as Jesus did we might hope that there was another way) added to this it is living in the knowledge that regardless of what happens to our mortal life we will be raised to eternal life in everlasting glory.

You are of far more Value are than the Birds.

Jesus firstly tells his disciples that they are of far more value than birds who God looks after and secondly he points out to them that no matter how much they stress and worry about their life or the circumstances surrounding it, none of them is able to add a single hour to it and then asks them, "What advantage is there in being anxious over food, clothing, the things of this world or even life itself."

The mind of Christ and his perspective toward mortal life and this world are totally different from the mindset of those who live in the mind of this world. Christ's mindset is heavenly and eternal whereas the mind of the world is set on the cares of this world and saving their mortal life.

Seek God's Kingdom and these things will be added to You.

Luke 12:27-31 ----- ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

The reign of King Solomon is known as the golden years of the kingdom of Israel, he built the temple of God and many other majestic and amazing buildings. Jesus says, even Solomon's glory (as great as it was), was not like that of the lily which does nothing to grow and points out that God causes the grass to grow just to be cut down and thrown away. In these two examples it is God who gives life to the lily and the grass and causes them to grow they do nothing. Jesus is using these two examples to show those who trust in him that they should not doubt that God will give them eternal life, which like the lily and the grass they can do nothing to create it in themselves.

The focus in the mind of Jesus in this story is mortal life (temporary life) he is saying if God gives a lily so much beauty and gives life to grass which is simply thrown away how much more will he clothe those who are so much more valuable to Him. In the context of this story the clothing primarily applies to the resurrection Jesus is saying, "When you die God knows it" (i.e. the story of the sparrow and the hairs on your head) (Luke 12:6-7).

In the resurrection God will clothe all those who belong to Christ with glory that will far surpass that of Solomon and the beauty of a lily. Jesus words, "O you of little faith," refers to salvation and eternal life. Jesus in these conversations is telling his listeners not to allow the cares; stresses and possessions of this world stop them from accepting eternal life (v22).

People without God are anxious and worried about how they look and what they wear, about how big their house is and what decor they will furnish it with, what people will think of them, their future, their financial security and their health etc. All these things choke out any focus of God or eternal life, but they as the grass are mortal and will all pass away.

All things will be added to You.

Following are the two most common teaching within Christianity concerning Jesus words, "All things will be added to you" (v31).

1. Some wrongly teach (especially those who teach a prosperity gospel) that it means God will give those who belong to Christ good health, riches and wealth, majestic houses, expensive cars and designer clothes in this life.
2. Others rightly teach that Jesus words apply to the resurrection of those who belong to Christ when God clothes them with eternal life and eternal glory and gives them all things in the eternal Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. They believe this concept because at the beginning of the chapter Jesus said to those who belong to him not to worry about their mortal life because life is more than food and clothing and not to fear those who can take their mortal life. Added to this in the following verse (v33) Jesus says to those who belong to him "Sell your possessions and give to the needy and you will have treasure in the heavens that does not fail.

The meaning of the word need: the word, need means, a necessity and carries the idea of being in destitution, to be in want or to have a need or requirement. It is interesting to notice that the only things mentioned that are to be given to those who, seek God's Kingdom are clothing, food and drink (Luke 12:22-31).

It is your Father's Good Pleasure to give you the Kingdom.

Luke 12:32-40 ----- ³²"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell 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. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. ³⁵"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and 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. ³⁷Blessed 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.* ³⁸If he (the master) comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them (his servants) awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But 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. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Jesus tells his disciples to sell their possessions help the needy and give to the poor and they will be storing up treasure in heaven. Jesus is teaching those who belong to him not to be attached to anything of this world not even their own lives because there is an entire new and far better life that they will be given when Christ returns to his Kingdom. The title servants or managers refer to everyone who belongs to the master (Christ) therefore the parable applies to everyone who belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Disciples of Jesus are to be like men waiting for their master to return. Though they do not know when he will return they are always ready for his return, meaning that they are continually living a lifestyle that brings a good testimony to God and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Absolutely Beautiful words for all those who love Christ.

Jesus says, when he returns he will dress himself and then serve those servants who have been faithful and seeking the Kingdom of God (v37). How humbling and beautiful are these words of the Lord Jesus Christ, truly he sees those who love him as his brothers and sisters.

Jesus is the true shepherd of the flock; he does not exalt himself above those who are faithful to him but rather happily serves them as they have served him.

Blessed is the Faithful Servant whom Jesus finds when He Comes.

Luke 12:41-48 ----- ⁴¹Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?" ⁴²And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? ⁴³Blessed is that servant (manger) whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁴Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁵But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, ⁴⁶the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. ⁴⁷And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. ⁴⁸But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

All who confess Jesus are called his managers; according to this parable they can be faithful and wise managers or wicked and foolish ones. The wise manger is the manager who is in the Lord's will when he returns contrasted to the foolish manager who drinks an excess of alcohol, revels in ungodly parties and causes harm to other humans.

The Will of God and the Will of the Lord Jesus Christ is: -

To love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and to, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-39). These are the only two commandments anyone needs to know. This is because if a person loves God and their neighbour as themselves they will never hurt or harm another human in anyway therefore no other commandment would ever be broken. Love your neighbour as yourself means do not deliberately do harm to other humans.

No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. The thing God hates the most is when we do harm to another person, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do good to others.

It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land. Leviticus chapter nineteen makes it clear that our neighbour is every other person, showing that the law requires justice to all people. The six commandments regarding mankind should be applied to everyone and we must abide by them ourselves.

To love in the biblical sense is not an emotional attitude, but the keeping of these laws in relation to our neighbour. This is the general law of justice, beyond that; our conduct is to be regulated by relationship. We must render honour and justice to all people wherever due, but we have a particular responsibility to care for our families and those who belong to Christ.

Everyone who is Given Much, of them much will be Required.

Jesus words, "Everyone who is given much, of them much will be required," is a principal that applies to any business, organisation, government or church. Those who have been entrusted with much (i.e., abilities, talents, knowledge or authority) much more is expected from them than is expected from those who lack these things.

Those who have been entrusted with much should be grateful and see it as a privilege and not be looking down on those who have little (as the religious leaders of Jesus day did (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) or expecting the same from those who are not as gifted as they are.

The justice of God is manifested in the following words of Christ: -

- The servant who did not know the masters will and did things that deserved punishment will receive a light punishment, but for those who did know the will of the master and still went ahead and did what was wrong will receive a severe punishment, but the faithful and wise servant will be set over all the masters' possessions when he returns" (v43-44).

I have not come to give Peace on Earth, but rather Division.

Luke 12:49-53 -----⁴⁹"I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵²For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They 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."

Fire in this context is division (v51) (i.e. division between those who accept Christ and those who don't division between the things of the world and the things of the Kingdom of God). Jesus words, "I have a baptism to be baptised with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished." Refers to his crucifixion, it is a baptism of distress and suffering.

Jesus knows that belief in him will bring division, the majority of humanity is happy to believe in a concept of God without the Lord Jesus Christ. To the unbelieving world Jesus Christ makes the God of Israel and of Christians to narrow whereas a god without Christ allows people to have a god that will suit their own lifestyle and their own imagination. They can have a god as they would desire him to be. Jesus is what divides Christians from those who believe in a general concept of God, thus his very presence on earth and even the mention of his name brings division.

NOTE: Jesus is not saying go out and deliberately cause division amongst your family members or those of the world we know this because the following verses show that it is a Bible principal to strive for peace as much as it is in our power to do so: -

- Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it (Psalm 34:14).
- So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding (Rom. 14:19).
- Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord (Heb. 12:14).
- Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it (Prov. 3:27).

When Jesus said, "I have come to bring division," he is telling his disciples if it comes to a decision between a family member and Christ then Christ has to be put before that family member, but if the unbelieving family does not put those who belong to Christ in this position there is no need to forsake their family. In some countries those who accept Christ are sadly rejected by their family, when this happens the family will be divided. When an unbelieving family forces the one who belongs to Christ to choose between Christ and their family of course Christ cannot be denied thus the family is divided.

You know how to interpret the Sky, but not the Present Time.

Luke 12:54-56 ----- ⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

The miracles and mighty works and wonders Jesus did were signs to attest and affirm that he was the promised One the Old Testament prophet said was to come, the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God and that God was with him (Acts 2:22). The crowds should have known who he was and the age they were living in.

Make an Effort to settle with your Accuser before going to Court.

Luke 12:57-59 ----- ⁵⁷"And why do you (the crowds) (v54) not judge for yourselves what is right? ⁵⁸As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. ⁵⁹I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny."

NOTICE: Jesus is still speaking to the crowds (v54) the practical lesson is common sense, if you have offended someone sort out any legal problems before they take you to court or you may end up in prison and certainly will have to pay back everything you owe, but the story could symbolically be interpreted as follows, all of humanity is pronounced guilty by the word of God they are on their way to the heavenly courtroom to be judged by the ultimate judge the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is basically warning the crowds and by extension all humanity to get right with God before they face the judgement seat.

End