

LUKE 12



In 5 minutes...

WHEN:

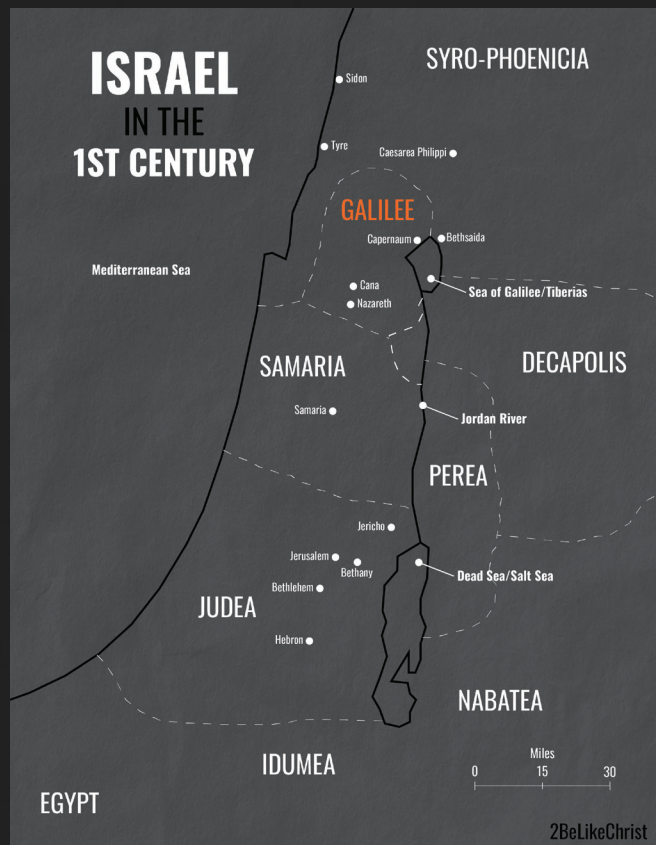
- The events of chapter 12 were part of Jesus' ministry on earth.
- These events took place approximately 30-33 A.D..

CHARACTERS:

- **Jesus** - The Son of God.
- **The Disciples** - Jesus' followers who listened to Him teach.
- **The Pharisees and Lawyers** - Jewish religious leaders who were determined to undermine Jesus.
- **The Rich Fool** - A character created by Jesus to teach the multitudes about trust in material possessions.

WHERE:

- Chapter 12 appears to be a continuation of chapter 11.
- Per Mark 3:20-22, it seems these events occurred in the region of Galilee, specifically the city of Capernaum.



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OVERVIEW:

- A WARNING ABOUT THE PHARISEES (12:1-3):
 - + Large crowds of people gathered to hear Jesus.
 - + Jesus warned them about the “leaven” (influence) of the Pharisees, which was “hypocrisy.”
- THERE IS NO REASON TO FEAR IF YOU ARE ON JESUS’ SIDE (12:4-12:12):
 - + There is not reason to fear threats from men because God protects the souls of the faithful.
 - + There is no need to fear neediness because God ensures the care of the faithful.
 - + Anyone who puts their trust in Jesus (“acknowledges” Him), Jesus will acknowledge before God.
 - + Anyone who denies Jesus, Jesus will deny before God.
- THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL (12:13-21):
 - + A man came to Jesus asking Him to intervene in a dispute he had with his brother about an inheritance.
 - + Jesus warned the man about covetousness and told him a parable about the folly of putting trust in riches.
- THOSE WHO TRUST IN CHRIST HAVE NO REASON TO BE ANXIOUS (12:22-12:34):
 - + Jesus told His disciples not to be anxious about their lives, what they would eat or wear.
 - + God cared for the birds, flowers, and grass and He would certainly care for them.
 - + God would give them what they needed if they served Him in His Kingdom.
- ALL MUST BE READY FOR THE RETURN OF CHRIST (12:35-48):
 - + Like servants awaiting their master, the disciples were told to fulfill their duty faithfully until Jesus’ return.
 - + Faithful servants will be rewarded by God.
 - + Servants who neglect their responsibilities while Jesus is away will be punished.
- JESUS’ MESSAGE WILL CAUSE DIVISION IN EVEN THE CLOSEST RELATIONSHIPS (12:49-53):
- INTERPRETING SIGNS AND RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO REPENT (12:54-59):
 - The Jews were able to recognize signs indicating the coming weather but they weren’t able to recognize the signs indicating the Messiah had arrived.
 - Jesus told them they needed to repent before they found themselves face-to-face with the Judge and received a harsh sentence.

BIG PICTURE:

- This chapter emphasizes the need for readiness and the urgency of being busy in the Lord’s service.
- Nobody knows when Jesus will return, but we know when He does, everyone will stand before the Judge.
- Those who are currently serving God need to be diligent in their work and inviting others to serve God.
- Those who aren’t serving God currently need to begin serving Him so they face the judge as a ally, not an enemy.
- God is the king of everything, we either serve Him or we don’t, and our choice will make all the difference.

TAKEAWAY:

- In light of verse 48, take an inventory of everything God has given you (money, talent, health, smarts, etc...)
- Are you using those things to serve God’s kingdom? For His glory? To call others to Christ’s service?
- If not, take 1 or 2 of the things from your inventory and come up with a way you can use it to serve Jesus.
- “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required” (12:48).