

A sepia-toned background image showing a group of people in a meeting or study session. In the foreground, a person's hands are visible, holding a pen and writing on a notepad. Other people are blurred in the background, some looking at documents or devices.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THROUGH LUKE 12

PYAC22

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PYAC 22 // Discussion Questions

On the following pages are the discussion questions we will be working with for the weekend of the Conference—if you want to, you can familiarize yourself with the passage, and the kinds of things we'll be seeking to discuss, ahead of time.

Session 1// Luke 12:1-12

- ¹ In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first *of all*,
"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.
- ² "For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known.
- ³ "Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light,
and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.
- ⁴ "And I say to you, My friends,
do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.
- ⁵ "But I will show you whom you should fear:
Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!
- ⁶ "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God.
- ⁷ "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.
Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.
- ⁸ "Also I say to you,
whoever confesses Me before men,
him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.
- ⁹ "But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.
- ¹⁰ "And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him;
but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven.
- ¹¹ "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities,
do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say.
- ¹² "For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

Questions:

1. **When followers of Jesus face opposition, what should they not think about, or worry about, based on verses 4 and 5 and 11? And what *should* they think about instead, based on verses 5 and 8?**
2. **A lot of people are scared of a lot of things. Based on verses 4-7, what are the actual dangers facing humanity? According to Jesus, what things should we not fear, and what should we definitely fear? How would it change our world for everyone to know this?**
3. **How can fearing God (verse 5) make us less fearful of other people (verse 4)? How do these two fears cancel each other out?**
4. **In verses 4-7, how does Jesus take us from fear to comfort?** (Notice: "Don't fear" other people (v.4), "do fear" God (v.5), and then, "don't be afraid" in general, even of God (v.7).)
5. **What is God like, based on verse 4?** What is he like, based on verse 7? How do these things go together?
6. How does verses 8-9 help us understand verses 4-5? And vice-versa?
7. What do you think about verses 11-12? How are they helpful, or encouraging?
8. If you could boil down this teaching to one thing, how would you answer this question: *What one quality is Jesus trying to instill in his followers in this passage?*

What do you think we should pray for, based on these verses?

Session 2 // Luke 12:13-34

- ¹³ Then one from the crowd said to Him,
"Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."
- ¹⁴ But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?"
- ¹⁵ And He said to them,
"Take heed and beware of covetousness,
for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."
- ¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying:
"The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully."
- ¹⁷ "And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'"
- ¹⁸ "So he said, 'I will do this:
I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods."
- ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul,
"Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years;
take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry."
- ²⁰ "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'"
- ²¹ "So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."
- ²² Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you,
do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on."
- ²³ Life is more than food, and the body *is more* than clothing."
- ²⁴ Consider the ravens,
for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them.
Of how much more value are you than the birds?"
- ²⁵ And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?"
- ²⁶ If you then are not able to do *the* least, why are you anxious for the rest?"
- ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;
and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."
- ²⁸ If then God so clothes the grass,
which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven,
how much more *will He clothe* you, O *you* of little faith?"
- ²⁹ And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind."
- ³⁰ For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things."
- ³¹ But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you."
- ³² Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."
- ³³ Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old,
a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys."
- ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Intro:

Questions:

1. Jesus tells a parable to answer the request in verse 13. Notice how he gives us the point of the parable up front (v.15) and a further insight at the end (v.21). How does the story Jesus tells illustrate his main points? (How did the man in the story *show* he thought his life "consisted in the abundance of his possessions"?)
2. Why is it so tempting to think like the "Rich Fool"? How does v.22 give us a clue into what kinds of things might make us think like him?
3. What truths do verses 23-26 lead us to see, and how do these truths help us not worry?
4. In verse 30, Jesus assumes that we understand that we have a Father, and those who don't follow him...don't. What difference does that make for our battle against worry?
5. Discuss verses 31-34. Taking all this section together, how does Jesus teach us a unique and powerful way to combat all the worry and anxiety we see around us?
 - a. What should we *do* (v. 32)?
 - b. How should we relate to our possessions (v.33)?
6. How does taking action with our possessions give us power over our hearts (v.34)? Isn't that interesting?
7. How would you use these verses to help a friend who was struggling with worry and anxiety?

What do you think we should pray for, based on these verses?

Session 3 // Luke 12:35-48

- 35 "Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning;
36 and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding,
that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately.
37 Blessed *are* those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching.
Assuredly, I say to you that
he will gird himself and have them sit down *to eat*, and will come and serve them.
38 And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch,
and find *them* so, blessed are those servants.
39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come,
he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.
40 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."
- 41 Then Peter said to Him, "Lord, do You speak this parable *only* to us, or to all *people*?"
42 And the Lord said,
"Who then is that faithful and wise steward,
whom *his* master will make ruler over his household,
to give *them* *their* portion of food in due season?
43 Blessed *is* that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.
44 Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.
45 But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'
and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk,
46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him*,
and at an hour when he is not aware,
and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the unbelievers.
47 And that servant who knew his master's will,
and did not prepare *himself* or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many *stripes*.
48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few.
For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required;
and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

Questions:

1. There are a lot of details in this passage we could take time with, but let's work on hearing what Jesus has to say to us by focusing on the big idea he's getting at. You see this main teaching in verses 35-40. What would you say is the most important takeaway for followers of Jesus?
2. What was the single most important thing for the servants to prepare for in the story in verses 36-38? What about in verse 39? What about in verse 45-46? So...according to Jesus, what is the single most important thing for followers of Jesus to be aware of, and to orient their lives around, based on these teachings?
3. In the first two stories (v.35-40), what might make it hard for the servants to do their master's will? In the third story (v.45-46) what makes it hard for the servant to do his master's will? What practical applications can we make for ourselves from all this?
4. Verse 46 is one of the harshest things Jesus ever said recorded in the gospels. What was it about the servant in the story that made Jesus speak this way?
5. Look at the end of verse 48 ("Everyone to whom much is given..."). How does it help us understand the main point of the answer Jesus gives Peter? (How were Peter and the disciples being "given much" in their time with Jesus?) How are we, sitting here today, also the people spoken about?
6. If a follower of Jesus took verses 35-48 to heart for real, what kind of person would they be? *What do you think we should pray for, based on these verses?*

Session 4 // Luke 12: 49-56

- ⁴⁹ "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!
- ⁵⁰ "But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!
- ⁵¹ "Do *you* suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division.
- ⁵² "For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three.
- ⁵³ "Father will be divided 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 her mother-in-law."
- ⁵⁴ Then He also said to the multitudes,
"Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west,
immediately you say, 'A shower is coming'; and so it is.
- ⁵⁵ "And when *you* see the south wind blow, you say, 'There will be hot weather'; and there is.
- ⁵⁶ "Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth,
but how *is it* you do not discern this time?

Questions:

1. How does the way Jesus talks in these verses seem to "break the mold" of what most people think Jesus was like? What do you think this tells us about what its going to mean for us to follow Jesus in our time?
2. It is clear from verses 51-53 that Jesus embraced the division his presence in the world would create. How do these truths about Jesus create *division* in the world—his claim to be the exclusive king, his claim to be the only way to God, his demand for repentance from all sin, his commands about how to live, his death on the cross...?
3. If Jesus were standing here today talking to us, how do you think he would apply the verses we've read this weekend to our situation in *our* current time?
4. Based on all we've read this weekend, what do you think Jesus wants us to be most *aware* of, and most *invested in* this year?
5. What kinds of things, that most people are preoccupied with, does Jesus want to *free* his followers from? What things, that most people ignore, does Jesus want his followers to focus on?
6. Based on all we've read this weekend, what do you think Jesus wants us to be *doing* with our lives? Practically, how might that look in the short term?in the long term?

How should we pray, based on everything we've read and discussed this weekend?