

**Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)**

**Luke 12: 8-21**

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. Today, we will continue reading Luke chapter 12, verses 8 to 21.

**Verses 8–9: “Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.”**

Jesus Himself was facing Jerusalem, knowing that what awaited Him there was persecution and the cross. He also knew that in the future, when His disciples went out to preach, they too would face much persecution. On the one hand, He encouraged them that the Heavenly Father would care for them; on the other hand, He solemnly told the disciples: if today you confess Me before men, one day I will also confess you before the angels of God. If today you do not dare to confess Me before men and you deny Me, one day I will also not confess you before the angels of God.

Every action we take in our lives today will have consequences and effects in the future. Today, for the sake of the gospel, we may be despised, mocked, and rejected by others, yet we are still willing to continue to proclaim before men; one day, when we stand before the judgment seat, the Son of Man will also confess us in this way. What do we want—people's favor today, or Christ's acknowledgment and approval on that day?

**Verse 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.”**

This is a sin mentioned in the Bible that cannot be forgiven; it is a very serious matter. When someone shares the gospel with you, if you do not believe, or even if you say some words against Christ, this can still be forgiven; but if you blaspheme the Holy Spirit, you will not be forgiven. Why? Because if a person is ever able to believe in Jesus and in the gospel we preach, it is actually because the Holy Spirit has already been working in his heart, making it soft. Therefore, when the gospel comes to him, his heart is already prepared to receive it.

But if one blasphemes the Holy Spirit, it means we erase that inner prompting and ignore that small voice within; if you do this, it becomes very difficult for the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart. Therefore, no matter how the gospel is preached, no matter how compelling it sounds, it will be very hard for you to believe, repent, and receive salvation. As a result, you cannot be saved; and if you cannot be saved, you cannot receive forgiveness or grace. This also shows that our hearts must always remain soft before God, allowing the Holy Spirit the opportunity to work within us.

Every circumstance we encounter in our daily lives, every person, matter, and thing we meet, and every word we hear, has been arranged beforehand by God in our environment. If our hearts are soft enough and willing to let the Holy Spirit work within, we will often hear God speaking to us. God always brings grace to us, and God always brings truth to us. In the truth we are enlightened and come to know our true condition; in grace we receive forgiveness. When we confess our transgressions, God, under the covering of the precious blood of His Son, forgives all our transgressions.

**Verses 11–12: “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. For the Holy Spirit will teach you what you ought to say.”**

Jesus clearly knew that these beloved disciples of His would one day, one by one, walk the path of martyrdom. They would be brought before synagogues, before authorities, and before those in power. Therefore, Jesus told them beforehand not to worry about how to defend themselves or what to say. At that very moment, the Holy Spirit would personally lead them and teach them what they ought to say. Here, Jesus was referring to when His disciples were persecuted and brought before authorities; the Holy Spirit would give them the most appropriate words according to the need at that time.

Some people take this out of context and apply “the Holy Spirit will teach you what you ought to say” to preparing sermons for the pulpit: they do not prepare at all and simply go up to see how the Holy Spirit will lead. This is an inappropriate misuse of the passage. Should one prepare? One should prepare. After preparing, must one strictly follow it? Not necessarily. Preparation is our responsibility; it is the duty of everyone who speaks for the Lord. When you stand to speak, the Holy Spirit may give you inspiration—what to emphasize, what will meet people’s needs, and sometimes even new words. All these things do happen, but preparation remains our responsibility. Throughout this passage, Jesus is speaking to His disciples.

**Verse 13: “Then one from the crowd said to Him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.’”**

But beginning in verse 13, someone interrupted. While Jesus was speaking to His disciples, many people were gathered around. Among them, one man interrupted Jesus and said, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” Whenever people come before God, if they are not humble and do not examine themselves, they often like to tell the Lord Jesus to do this or that. But if He is God, then He should be the one telling you what to do, not you telling Him what to do. This man was clearly a greedy person. He wanted Jesus to command his brother to divide the inheritance with him.

**Verse 14: “But He said to him, ‘Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?’”**

Jesus spoke to him quite sharply. Toward those who were sick or demon-possessed, Jesus was very compassionate; He often healed and cast out demons, even stretching out His hand to touch lepers. But toward this request—to help divide an inheritance—Jesus was very direct: “Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?” I have come to preach the word of life; I have come to care for those who suffer and are scattered, to give them hope of life; not to divide property for those who are wealthy.

**Verse 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.’”**

These words were spoken to the crowd, no longer only to His disciples. Jesus immediately saw through this man—behind him was greed. Through this incident, Jesus said: we must take heed and guard ourselves against all covetousness. Why? “For one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

The word “life” here in the original Greek is *zoe*, which usually refers to eternal, spiritual life, distinct from our physical life. He is saying that a person’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions; the value of your life is not determined by whether you have money. Then where does the value of life lie?

**Verses 16–17: “Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, “What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?”’”**

Then Jesus used a parable to speak to them: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully,” just like the man who asked Jesus to divide his inheritance—he was very wealthy. He was so abundant that his barns were full of grain, with no room left to store more.

**Verses 18–19: “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. 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.”””**

This part of the parable is very interesting. If you look carefully, there are many “my”: my crops have no place to be stored; my barns are too small; I will build bigger ones; then I can store all my crops and my goods; and then I will say to my soul (the original word here is “soul”): “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” Storing up many possessions for oneself so that one may live carefree for the rest of life seems to be what every person is doing in this life.

**Verse 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?’”**

You have made so many preparations for yourself so that you may enjoy the rest of your life, but how do you know you will live that long? Tonight your soul will be required of you. What does it mean that your soul will be required? One day our body will pass away, but our soul will not die. As mentioned earlier, after the body is killed, the soul will still face judgment. On that day, all the abundance you prepared—who will enjoy it? Do not say these things are all “mine, mine, mine”; the best destination for your grain is in the stomachs of the poor, and the best use of your possessions is to help widows and orphans in need.

**Verse 21: “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”**

Jesus then gives a conclusion: we should lay up treasures in heaven. Those who store up treasures for themselves on earth will one day find that they are poor, left with only money; and when your body dies, you cannot take anything with you—you will go to meet the Lord empty-handed. Why not, while you still have breath,

use these unrighteous riches to make friends for yourself? When people are hungry, give them food; when they are cold, give them clothing; when they are in need, help them. Through your help, let them come to know eternal salvation and become children of God. One day, these people will welcome you in heaven; these are the treasures you have stored in heaven. Jesus spoke very directly to this greedy man, but how often are we ourselves just like him?

Let us pray together: Lord, yes, our lives do not consist in the abundance of possessions, but in whether we have You. Thank You that in the course of our lives, You have saved us, allowed us to know You, and made us Your people. Help us also to live a life worthy of our identity as Christians, making us people who are willing to lay up treasures in heaven. Today, in the people, matters, and things I encounter, give me a heart willing to help others, so that I may live out the virtues a Christian should have. Bless my life today. I pray in the holy name of Jesus Christ.