

VV STUDY NOTES: 25th June 2022
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The Life of Jesus – Fools, Slaves and Strife

Preamble

Luke 10:21-18:27 is one long section in his gospel. In it he records a number of encounters, meetings and “discussions” that Jesus has with his disciples, the “crowd” and a wide variety of individuals, friends, Pharisees, and no doubt others which Luke has compiled. This week we will look at one part of this section in which Jesus again challenges not only his audiences but also us today.

Background

Last week we left Jesus denouncing the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, and reminds his audience of God’s care and warning against blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Then suddenly a man in the crowd interrupts him

Texts

Luke 12:13-59 (note Matthew 6:19-21; 25-34); see also Exodus 2:11-15; 18:13-26.

Areas for Thought and Discussion

(There’s little chance we will get through all this but we’ll do our best . . . !

The parable of the rich fool (vs. 13-21)

What treasures might we be tempted to store up for the future?

What does it mean to be “rich before God”?

Stop worrying! (vs. 22-31)

To which people group(s) would Jesus address with these words today?

Should the church of today preach the same as Jesus did on this topic? If so, how?

What are *YOU* worrying about? Be honest!

Look up Luke 12:30-31 in as many translations as possible. What is implied in the words translated as seek, strive, desire, worry about, be concerned, run after etc. about? How would *you* fill in the gaps in v37?

“For it is the nations of the world that _____ after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, _____ for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.”

Give alms! (vs. 32-34)

How closely should we aim to replicate St Francis of Assisi?

The Watchful Slaves (vs. 35-38)

Within the context of vs. 36-38 how do you understand v. 37?

“Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.”

The Unfaithful Slaves (vs. 42-48)

What do you think of the justice described in this section?

Division! (vs. 49-53) (*John Bercow's famous call*)

Does this refer only to families? If not, then to whom? Does v. 51 imply that it is *Jesus* that brings division? If that is the case, how much should we, as Jesus-followers, cause division or seek to heal division?

Interpreting the Time (54-56)

Given the war in Ukraine, the Financial Crisis, the Energy Crisis, the current Strikes, Covid and the NHS(S) crisis etc. and the state of Christianity in the world today how should we interpret the “present time” ?