



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Are You a Fool?

Bible Reading: Luke 12:1-21

Beware of Religious Hypocrisy

12 1 Meanwhile, a crowd of many thousands came together, so that they were trampling on one another. [Jesus] began to say to his disciples first, “Be on your guard against the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. 2 There is nothing covered that won’t be uncovered, nothing hidden that won’t be made known. 3 Therefore, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in an ear in private rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops. (12:1-3)

Fear God

4 “I say to you, my friends, don’t fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more. 5 But I will show you the one to fear: Fear him who has authority to throw people into hell after death. Yes, I say to you, this is the one to fear! 6 Aren’t five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God’s sight. 7 Indeed, the hairs of your head are all counted. Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. (12:4-7)

Acknowledge Christ

8 “And I say to you, anyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God, 9 but whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God. 10 Anyone 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. 11 Whenever they bring you before synagogues & rulers & authorities, don’t worry about how you should defend yourselves or what you should say. 12 For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what must be said.” (12:8-12) The Parable of the Rich Fool 13 Someone from the crowd said to [Jesus], “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” 14 “Friend,” [Jesus] said to him, “who appointed me a judge or arbitrator over you?” 15 He then told them, “Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because one’s life is not in the abundance of his possessions.” 16 Then [Jesus] told them a parable: “A rich man’s land was very productive. 17 He thought to himself, ‘What should I do, since I don’t have anywhere to store my crops? 18 I will do this,’ he said. ‘I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones and store all my grain and my goods there. 19 Then I’ll say to myself, “You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.” 20 “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared—whose will they be?’ 21 “That’s how it is with the one who stores up treasure

for himself and is not rich toward God.” (12:13-21)

SUMMARY:

Jesus warns His disciples to beware the “leaven” of the Pharisees—hypocrisy. The Pharisees focused on outward religion and human approval, but God sees the heart. We cannot “fake” a relationship with God; He calls us to humility, repentance, and genuine faith. Jesus reminds us not to fear people or their opinions, but to fear separation from God, while also trusting in His deep care for us. He is God our Father who knows us completely and values us greatly. Jesus calls us to openly acknowledge Him as Lord, believing in His death and resurrection for our salvation. The warning about ‘blaspheming the Holy Spirit’ points to continually hardening our hearts against the Spirit’s testimony about Jesus. Christ still invites us into relationship with Him. Finally, through the ‘parable of the rich fool,’ Jesus warns against living only for earthly security and wealth. True wisdom is to be “rich toward God” and respond to Him today.