

Title: ADVICE IN CONTEMPORARY TERMS, LUKE 12:32 – 48
(Chatham, NJ; 08/11/13, AM) [Pc – Topical]

Theme: Jesus teaches his disciples to live simply, keep their eyes peeled, and do their jobs.

Purpose: To expand on these well-known pieces of advice and to remind the church that they are vitally important.

Introduction:

1. The faithful saints of old died before they received the fulfillment of God's promises, Heb. 11:13.
2. Think about their patience, persistence, and long view of things.
3. In Luke 12 Jesus takes a similarly long view of things.
4. Let's see them in contemporary terminology.

I. Live Simply, 32-34

- A. Choose spiritual riches over material ones
 1. Remember Mary, Martha's sister
 2. Jesus advocates simplicity not asceticism
 3. Even in Acts 5 Ananias and Sapphira weren't required to give everything
 4. He provided a purse for provisions, Luke 22:36 & John 12:6
 5. At the same time he advocates giving to the poor; the goats in Mt. 25 don't give
 6. Righteousness should never be forsaken for fear of poverty
- B. Examples
 1. The issue is what you value: where your treasure is, (34 & Mt. 6:21)
 2. Be rich in good works, 1 Tim. 6:18-19, and don't set your hope on riches
 3. Discipleship demands a life of simplicity:
 - a. Buy only what you need and only for its usefulness not its status
 - b. Develop the habit of giving things away
 - c. Refuse the propaganda of modern gadgetry
 - d. Shun anything that distracts you from seeking the Kingdom first
 - e. Don't let your material things own you

II. Keep Your Eyes Peeled, 35-40

- A. "Be Prepared"
 1. This teaching hinges on the problem of uncertainty
 2. Things happen that we cannot expect ahead of time
 3. Soldiers at West Point learn that a battle plan will change almost as soon as it comes off the planning board
 4. Determine to see things through – this is preparation
 5. Churchill addressed the British people early in WWII: "We shall go on to the end. . . we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender." (June 4, 1940)
 6. Jesus tells the seven churches in Asia that they will receive a reward if they conquer
 7. Best preparation is a state of alertness
- B. Applied in the church
 1. Peter is the one who asks Jesus to clarify to whom he is speaking, 41
 2. He must have received the appropriate answer
 3. Several times he offers the same advice: be alert always
 - 1 Peter 1:13

- 5:8
- 2 Peter 3:11, 14

III. Do Your Job, 41-48 (Do your duty; fulfill your obligations; be responsible.)

A. The faithful and wise manager

1. Delay becomes the central antagonist here
2. The droning on of time causes weariness, mental fatigue
3. Faithfulness must be extended by great patience and endurance
4. The manager carries out his duties and responsibilities without fail
5. Stewardship becomes the theological principle for the Christian
6. The things we have are not ours to abuse

B. Exhortations from Paul

1. Ephesians 4:28 – the thief must not only stop stealing but he must also work to have something to offer those in need
2. Note the shift from self to others
3. 1 Thessalonians 4:12 – live responsibly; be dependent on no one
4. 2 Thessalonians 3:12 – do your work quietly and earn your own living
5. Be responsible; work hard; don't be a burden to others

Conclusions:

1. Enjoy God's provisions with thanksgiving (1 Tim. 4:4), but be willing to share with those in need.
2. Be vigilant for the condition of your soul.
3. Do your duty; fulfill your obligations to your church, family, work, and community.
4. Discipleship demands these.