

Handout: Luke Lesson 12

Chapter 17 begins with four teachings/sayings of Jesus on different aspects of discipleship:

1. 17:1-3a on the inevitability of sin/scandal in the Christian community
2. 17:3b-4 on the duty of Christians to forgive
3. 17:5-6 on the power of faith
4. 17:7-10 on the demands of Christian service

Symbolic Imagery in the Parable of the Unprofitable Servant (Lk 17:7-10)	
The master	God
The servants who work on the master's land	Christians within the kingdom of the Church
Unprofitable servants	Christians who only do the minimum service that God requires of a Christian
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Jesus offers three parables on the power of prayer in the Gospel of Luke:

1. The Parable of the Persistent Neighbor (Lk 11:5-13)
2. The Parable of the Persistent Widow (Lk 18:1-8)
3. The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Lk 18:9-14)

Symbolic Imagery in the Parable of the Ten Gold Coins (Lk 19:11-27)	
The nobleman who went to claim his kingship in a distant country	Christ's Ascension into the heavenly kingdom
The kingdom the master leaves	The Church on earth
The promise of his return	Christ's Second Advent
The gold coins	God's grace (spiritual gifts and blessings)
The servants who received the gold coins	Christians who receive the gifts of God's grace
The profitable servants	Christians who use God's gifts to advance the mission of the Church
The cities awarded the profitable servants	Eternal rewards
The unprofitable servant	Christians who neglect their spiritual gifts and do not advance the mission of the Church
Citizens who reject the lordship of the king/enemies of the king	The Jews who rejected Jesus as their Messiah and those others in the human family who reject Jesus Christ and His Gospel of salvation
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