Bible Study 68

March 1, 2023

Lukes’ Gospel (Continued)

Chapter 11 v 37 Six Woes

In the Old Testaments prophets did not so much predict the future as attempt to correct and keep people right with God in the present. They did this by pointing out sin and transgressions against the Law of Moses and the Covenant. This often came about in long discourses called ‘Oracles’. Most famous among these was the ‘Woe oracle’ delivered by a prophet who was angry with his people and wanted to warn them about the coming wrath of God.

In Luke 11. V 37 Jesus begins one of six ‘Woe Oracles ‘ against the Pharisees, scribes and leaders of the Jews. The gist of Jesus’ teaching to them is that they are hypocrites who only show cleanliness on the outside while inside they are full of greed and evil.---Instead of resorting to the letter of the law they should instead seek justice especially for the poor. V42.

He warns them about self-deception and taking the most important seats in the synagogue. He compares them to ‘unmarked graves’ that men walk over without knowing. He points to the lawyers and experts for placing great burden on the poor and the lowly but not helping in any way. Then Jesus really hurts the leaders by telling them that the very prophets they now laud and build monuments and tombs for, are the same prophets their forefathers killed.

Jesus places the blood of every generation from Abel to Zechariah on the hands of the present generation. From this moment on the Pharisees, scribes and lawyers seek to trap Jesus and condemn him for anything he says or teaches.

Chapter 12.

The beginning of chapter 12 Luke again adopts Greek Duelism and places it on the lips of Jesus addressing his disciples. He talks of light and darkness; what is heard and what is hidden; more Jesus warns:

“Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body but can do no more. Rather fear him who can kill the soul and drag it to hell. Rather remember that God holds each of you in his hand. Be not afraid.”

Jesus is clear that those who proclaim him will be saved and those who reject him condemn themselves and forever. Again there is the message that we must rely on the Holy Spirit to defend and protect us in the worst of circumstances.

Verse 13:

Jesus tells the story of the Rich Fool who builds extra barns to house his growing wealth.

The parable is a teaching against materialism, greed, wealth and power at the expense of what is truly important. Family, love, service, understanding and forgiveness but most of all having a spirit of generosity. We are all placed on this earth for a purpose and our time here is short. Worry not about your life for God cares for his creation. Ravens. Lilies of the field, God cares for them all . he will care for you also.

Read Chapter 12