

DAILY BREAD

FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 27, 2010

This week's assigned reading: Luke, chapters 11 and 12.

Comments on the assigned reading:

- Prayer is a big motif in Luke's Gospel. In chapter 11 we have Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer as well as a teaching about perseverance in prayer (11:1-13). There are other places in Luke where Jesus is either praying or teaching about prayer.
- In Luke, Jesus' enemies were primarily the Pharisees, but also the scribes or lawyers. (See 11:37-53) Some scholars conclude that Luke's home congregation was in hot competition with the Pharisees of his day for the loyalty of believers. We need to be careful, however, not to slide into anti-Judaism in our understanding of these texts.
- The Parable of the Rich Fool (12:13-21) is one of several texts in Luke that display caution towards, if not disapproval of wealth and the accumulation of wealth.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. How would you describe your prayer life? In what ways is it strong, and in what ways would you like it to grow?
2. Jesus said, "Do not worry about your life, what you eat, or about your body, what you will wear" (12:22). Do you worry? What do you worry about? How can your faith help you with your concerns?
3. Jesus also said, "You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky [such as signs of changing weather], but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?" (12:56) How would you name the times in which we live today? For example, the 1980's were labeled "The Me Generation". What would describe these times in which we live today?

Suggestions for prayer:

- Make a list of your top concerns, and return to it regularly in your prayer time. Include intercessions for specific persons and events.
- Pray for our nation and especially for the President, the Congress, and the courts. Ask that our constitutional form of government be protected and preserved given all of the threats against it from within and without.
- Pray that as we celebrate our nation's independence on the 4th of July weekend, that everyone have a safe and relaxing holiday.

For the blog conversation on these readings, go to:

<http://web.me.com/ronald.peterson1/FAITHnrFUTURE/Blog/Blog.html>