

**Episode:** Luke Series No. 12

**Narrator:** The Pharisee

**Primary Scriptures:** Luke 11, 12, 13:31-35

**Story Summary:** Teachings of Jesus

**Location:** Galilee

**Time:** Circa 30 AD

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Luke 11:2-4, 9-10, 11:13, 11:23, 11:28, 12:8-9, 12:10, 12:15, 12:48

The Pharisees were a Jewish sect that started two hundred years before Jesus. At times their identity shifted between a political party, a social movement, or a school of thought. They believed in the authority of virtually all of the Hebrew Bible (what we call the Old Testament) and had built an oral tradition of a vast number of interpretations. After the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, their beliefs became foundational in Rabbinic Judaism.

The Sadducees were another Jewish sect who recognized only the Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament) and rejected the rest as well as oral traditions and beliefs such as the resurrection of the dead. The Sadducees and Pharisees comprised most of the Jewish leadership in the time of Jesus.

Both the Pharisees and Sadducees opposed Jesus and his teachings. Jesus interpreted the Scriptures differently than either the Sadducees or Pharisees, was intent on serving God and not the letter of their laws, and wanted to free the people from the religious rules that the leaders had inflicted on them. Jesus spoke with authority, and the religious leaders feared the people would follow Jesus and reject them. This fueled their jealousy and hatred.

In these chapters, Jesus is headed toward Jerusalem and his death, and Luke seems to be choosing among his many teachings and actions during that period. One of Jesus' best-known teachings is found in Luke 11:1-4, the Lord's Prayer. A little longer form of this prayer is found in Matthew 6:9-13. In Matthew, the Lord's Prayer is given in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount, while Luke places it in response to the request of Jesus' disciples to be taught to pray, just as John the Baptist taught his disciples to pray. This was not an unusual question by his disciples, since it was the responsibility of every rabbi (teacher) to teach all things to the rabbi's followers.

As Jesus is heading toward his final week of life, it is sometimes a little difficult to tell how popular he still was with the people. A hint of an answer is found in Luke 12:1 where thousands of people had gathered. The verse isn't clear how many of these were followers and how many were there just to see Jesus, but either way, the Pharisees would have been unhappy.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What does the term "Pharisee" mean in modern terms? Do you ever find yourself acting like that? Was Jesus worried about offending the religious leaders?
  2. What are the differences in the Lord's prayer of Matthew and Luke.
  3. When Jesus healed a blind man on the Sabbath, how might that have caused a Pharisee to have emotional and theological problems?
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1. someone who rigidly adheres to rules and laws even when they don't make sense. Luke 11:45-46. 2. Matthew's is longer; Matthew's was given in the Sermon on the Mount, while Luke's was in response to a question. 3. Only a righteous man could heal somebody, but Jesus was working on the Sabbath; Jesus and his followers did not follow the rules of the Pharisees, so why would God bless their work? Jesus and his followers were in conflict with the Jewish leaders, but all good Pharisees followed their leaders.

### Application Questions:

1. Jesus often condemned people for having hard hearts. Do you sometimes have a hard heart? How do you get over having a hard heart?
2. Do you think you would have been a Pharisee in the time of Jesus? Many of them seemed to be sincere in wanting to serve and obey God. It is possible, like the Pharisees, to take that sincerity too far? In what ways might you do that, and what can you do to live a more Jesus-centered faith?
3. Luke 12:8-10 are some of the scariest verses in the Bible for many people. Should they be scary to you? What steps can you take to live it to the fullest?
4. Luke 12:48 is one of the most popular verses in the Bible. What does it mean to be entrusted? Why is there more expected from being entrusted than from being given?

### Application Questions for Teens:

1. Jesus taught his disciples to pray. Who would you pick to teach you how to pray?
2. Luke 12:15 says that there are different kinds of greed. What kinds of greed have you encountered in your life? How can you guard yourself against them in the future? [money, popularity, recognition]
3. Luke 12:22-31 is about not worrying. Do you feel like you are a worrier or not? What are some of the ways Jesus suggests to help you quit worrying?
4. Pick one of the parables in the primary scriptures for this lesson. Try to explain the parable or tell why it is confusing to you or why it makes sense.