

Dr. Daniel K. Darko, Gospel of Luke, Session 19, Jesus versus Pharisees and Lawyers (Luke 11:37-12:12) Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Darko, Luke, Session 19, Jesus versus Pharisees and Lawyers (Luke 11:37-12:12), Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Darko's lecture, Session 19 on Luke 11:37-12:12, focuses on Jesus' confrontations with Pharisees and lawyers. The session begins with Jesus accepting a dinner invitation and then criticizing their ritualistic handwashing and internal hypocrisy, leading to further rebukes against lawyers for their legalistic burdens and rejection of prophets. **This sparks opposition, prompting Jesus to warn his disciples about the Pharisees' hypocrisy and the importance of fearless faith and trust in God.** He emphasizes standing as true witnesses and assures them the Holy Spirit will provide guidance when facing persecution. **Ultimately, the lecture underscores the challenges and assurances for true discipleship in the face of opposition.**

2. 16 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Darko, Luke, Session 19 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Gospels → Luke).



**Darko_Luke_Session
n19.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Darko, Luke, Session 19, Jesus versus Pharisees and Lawyers (Luke 11:37-12:12)

Briefing Document: Dr. Daniel K. Darko on Luke 11:37-12:12 - Jesus Versus the Pharisees and Lawyers, Possessions and Trust

Overview: This briefing document summarizes Dr. Dan Darko's lecture (Session 19) on Luke 11:37-12:12, focusing on Jesus' confrontation with the Pharisees and lawyers, his subsequent teachings on hypocrisy, fear, trust in God, being a true witness, and preparedness in the face of persecution. Darko emphasizes the cultural context of the meal setting, the nature of the conflict, and the practical implications of Jesus' words for his disciples then and now.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

1. The Mealtime Confrontation (Luke 11:37-54):

- **Setting the Scene:** Jesus accepts an invitation to dine with a Pharisee, highlighting that not all Pharisees in Luke's Gospel are portrayed negatively initially. However, the meal quickly becomes a scene of contention.
- "Here, one of them invited him to his home. Again, we saw that a little bit earlier on in chapter 7. And Jesus took the invitation and went, except that he was going to land himself in trouble." (p. 1)
- **The Issue of Handwashing:** The Pharisee is astonished that Jesus does not ritually wash his hands ("baptizo") before dinner. Darko clarifies that this was a Pharisaic practice for ritual purity, not necessarily physical hygiene, and not explicitly mandated in the Old Testament. It was a marker of in-group acceptance.
- "Dipping here using the word baptizo is supposed to be understood not as something that is meant for physical hygiene... The point here is not for physical hygiene but for ritual washing or dipping in the expectation of the Pharisees." (p. 3)
- **Jesus' Critique of Hypocrisy:** Jesus uses the occasion to condemn the Pharisees' focus on outward appearances of cleanliness while their inner selves are "full of greed and wickedness." He uses inside-outside imagery, contrasting their meticulous tithing of minor herbs with their neglect of "justice and the love of God."

- "Now you Pharisees cleansed the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also..." (Luke 11:39-40, quoted on p. 1)
- "Woe to you, Pharisees, for you tithe mint and rue and every herb and neglect justice and the love of God. This you ought to have done without neglecting the others." (Luke 11:42, quoted on p. 1)
- **Woes to the Pharisees:** Jesus pronounces three "woes" against the Pharisees, highlighting their hypocrisy, love for public recognition, and their hidden corrupting influence ("like unmarked graves").
- Darko presents a chart summarizing their outward actions, what they neglect internally (greed, wickedness, justice, love of God), and the verdict ("fools"). (p. 5)
- **The Lawyers' Interjection and Rebuke:** A lawyer objects, feeling insulted by Jesus' words to the Pharisees. Jesus then pronounces three "woes" against the lawyers as well, for loading people with burdensome interpretations of the law, honoring dead prophets while their ancestors killed them, and taking away the "key of knowledge."
- "One of the lawyers answered him, Teacher, in saying these things you insult us also, he said. And he said, Woe to you lawyers also..." (Luke 11:45-46, quoted on p. 6)
- **The Aftermath:** The Pharisees and scribes become hostile and try to trap Jesus in his words.
- "As he went away from there, verse 53, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him and to provoke him to speak about many things, lying in wait to catch him in something he might say." (p. 6)

2. Teachings to the Disciples (Luke 12:1-12):

- **Beware of Hypocrisy:** Jesus warns his disciples to "beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy," emphasizing that all hidden things will eventually be revealed.
- "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed or hidden that will not be made known." (Luke 12:1-2, quoted on p. 7)

- **Fear God, Not People:** Jesus instructs his disciples not to fear those who can only kill the body, but to fear God who has authority over eternal judgment. This encourages them to stand firm in their faith despite potential persecution.
- "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that, have nothing more that they can do. But I warn you whom to fear. Fear him who, after he has killed, has the authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him." (Luke 12:4-5, quoted on p. 8)
- **Trust in God's Provision and Care:** Jesus assures his disciples of God's meticulous care, even for the smallest creatures like sparrows, and emphasizes their greater value. This reinforces the need to trust God in the face of fear and uncertainty.
- "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why even the hairs on your head are all numbered? Fear not. You are of more value than many sparrows." (Luke 12:6-7, quoted on p. 8)
- **Being a True Witness:** Jesus speaks about the importance of acknowledging him before others, with the promise of being acknowledged before the angels of God. Conversely, denying him will lead to denial. He also addresses the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit as unforgivable.
- "Everyone who acknowledges me before men, the son of man, also would acknowledge before the angels of God. But a one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God." (Luke 12:8-9, quoted on p. 9)
- **Preparedness through the Holy Spirit:** When brought before authorities, disciples should not be anxious about what to say, as the Holy Spirit will guide them at that moment. Darko cautions against misinterpreting this as a reason not to prepare for teaching or ministry, clarifying that it applies specifically to situations of persecution for their faith.
- "When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you will say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." (Luke 12:11-12, quoted on p. 10)

Key Quotes:

- "Now you Pharisees cleansed the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness." (Luke 11:39, quoted on p. 1) - Illustrates the central theme of hypocrisy.

- "Woe to you, Pharisees, for you tithe mint and rue and every herb and neglect justice and the love of God." (Luke 11:42, quoted on p. 1) - Shows their misplaced priorities.
- "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy." (Luke 12:1, quoted on p. 7) - The key warning to the disciples.
- "Do not fear those who kill the body, and after that, have nothing more that they can do. But I warn you whom to fear. Fear him who, after he has killed, has the authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him." (Luke 12:4-5, quoted on p. 8) - Highlights the proper object of fear.
- "For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." (Luke 12:12, quoted on p. 10) - Promise of divine aid in times of persecution.

Implications and Applications:

- **Inner Transformation over Outward Show:** Jesus emphasizes the importance of genuine inner righteousness and love for God over mere external adherence to religious customs.
- **Courage in the Face of Opposition:** Disciples are called to stand firm in their faith and witness, even when facing hostility and persecution.
- **Trust in God's Sovereignty:** God's care extends to the smallest details, providing assurance that he will be with and protect his followers.
- **The Role of the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in empowering believers, particularly in times of trial and when bearing witness to their faith.
- **Relevance for Today:** Darko explicitly connects these teachings to the experiences of Christians facing persecution in various parts of the world, encouraging them to remain steadfast in their faith.

Conclusion:

Dr. Darko's lecture provides a detailed analysis of Luke 11:37-12:12, highlighting Jesus' sharp critique of religious hypocrisy and his empowering teachings for his disciples. The confrontation at the meal serves as a catalyst for crucial lessons on inner purity, courageous witness, unwavering trust in God, and the vital role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers, particularly when facing opposition for their faith.

4. Study Guide: Darko, Luke, Session 19, Jesus versus Pharisees and Lawyers (Luke 11:37-12:12)

Study Guide: Luke 11:37-12:12 - Jesus Versus the Pharisees and Lawyers

Key Themes

- **Hypocrisy:** The stark contrast between outward religious observance and inner spiritual condition, particularly as it pertains to the Pharisees and lawyers.
- **Ritual Purity vs. Inner Transformation:** Jesus challenges the emphasis on external rituals (like handwashing) over the more critical aspects of justice and love for God.
- **True Righteousness:** Jesus highlights that genuine piety involves both outward actions and inward attitudes, with a greater emphasis on the latter.
- **The Burdens of Legalism:** The lawyers are critiqued for imposing heavy and impractical burdens on the people while not adhering to them themselves.
- **Persecution and Witness:** Jesus prepares his disciples for potential opposition and encourages them to be fearless witnesses, trusting in God's provision in times of trouble.
- **Trust and Fear:** The importance of fearing God above human authorities and trusting in God's care and provision, even for the seemingly insignificant.
- **The Holy Spirit's Role:** The promise of the Holy Spirit to aid disciples in speaking truthfully when facing persecution.

Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. Why was the Pharisee astonished when Jesus reclined at the table to eat? What does this reveal about the Pharisee's priorities?
2. According to Dr. Darko, what is significant about Luke bringing the Pharisees and lawyers together in his Gospel? What commonality does Luke often portray between them in their interactions with Jesus?
3. Explain the difference between the Pharisaic practice of handwashing (dipping - *baptizo*) and Jesus' concept of inner cleansing. What point was Jesus making by refusing to participate in the ritual?

4. Identify two specific criticisms Jesus leveled against the Pharisees in Luke 11:39-44. What fundamental aspects of God's will were they neglecting according to Jesus?
5. How did one of the lawyers respond to Jesus' initial criticisms of the Pharisees? What was the basis of the lawyer's objection?
6. Describe one of the "woes" Jesus pronounces upon the lawyers. What specific behavior or attitude did Jesus condemn?
7. What warning did Jesus give his disciples regarding the "leaven of the Pharisees"? What did he mean by this "leaven"?
8. What comfort does Jesus offer his disciples in Luke 12:4-7 regarding fear? What analogy does he use to illustrate God's care?
9. According to Luke 12:8-9, what is the consequence of acknowledging or denying Jesus before others? How does this relate to being a true witness?
10. According to Dr. Darko, what is Jesus *not* implying when he says the Holy Spirit will teach disciples what to say when brought before authorities (Luke 12:11-12)? What is the intended meaning in that context?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The Pharisee was astonished because Jesus did not wash his hands before dinner according to their ritualistic practice. This reveals that the Pharisee prioritized outward ceremonial purity over the person and teachings of Jesus.
2. When Luke brings Pharisees and lawyers together, it often signals conflict or opposition to Jesus. Luke seems to distinguish the lawyers as particularly troublesome figures, even suggesting some lawyers were also Pharisees.
3. The Pharisaic handwashing was a ritual dipping for ceremonial purity, not necessarily for physical hygiene. Jesus used his refusal to highlight that true purity comes from within, focusing on the heart and not just external acts.
4. Jesus criticized the Pharisees for cleansing the outside of the cup but being full of greed and wickedness inside, and for meticulously tithing even small herbs while neglecting justice and the love of God. They prioritized outward appearances over inward righteousness.

5. One of the lawyers accused Jesus of insulting them as well by his harsh words against the Pharisees. The lawyer felt that Jesus' condemnation of the Pharisees extended to their entire religious and legal class.
6. Jesus pronounces a "woe" upon the lawyers for loading people with burdens hard to bear while not lifting a finger themselves. This condemns their hypocrisy in creating and enforcing strict laws they did not personally adhere to.
7. Jesus warned his disciples to beware of the "leaven of the Pharisees," which he identified as hypocrisy. He meant that the corrupting influence of their insincere religious practices could spread and negatively affect his followers.
8. Jesus comforts his disciples by telling them not to fear those who can only kill the body, but to fear God. He uses the analogy of sparrows, noting that even these insignificant birds are cared for by God, and his disciples are of much greater value.
9. Acknowledging Jesus before others will lead to his acknowledgement of that person before the angels of God, while denying him will result in being denied. This emphasizes the importance of publicly standing as a true witness for Christ, especially in the face of opposition.
10. Jesus is *not* saying that believers should neglect studying scripture, preparing for teaching, or seeking theological education. Rather, he is assuring persecuted disciples that in the specific moment of being brought before authorities for their faith, the Holy Spirit will provide the necessary words to speak.

Essay Format Questions

1. Analyze the significance of the mealtime setting in Luke 11:37-54. How does this context contribute to Jesus' confrontation with the Pharisees and lawyers, and what does it reveal about the cultural and social dynamics of the time?
2. Compare and contrast Jesus' criticisms of the Pharisees and the lawyers in Luke 11:39-52. What are the distinct issues he addresses with each group, and what common underlying problem does he expose?
3. Discuss the relationship between outward religious practice and inward spiritual condition as presented in Luke 11:37-44. How does Jesus challenge the prevailing understanding of piety among the Pharisees, and what does he emphasize as true righteousness?
4. Examine Jesus' teachings on fear and trust in Luke 12:4-12. What specific fears does he address, and what reasons does he give for his disciples to trust in God's provision and protection, even in the face of persecution?
5. Explore the implications of Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit's help in Luke 12:11-12 for Christian discipleship. How should believers understand and apply this promise in their lives, particularly in the context of witnessing and potential opposition?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Pharisee:** A Jewish religious and social movement during the Second Temple period. They were known for their strict adherence to the Law (both written and oral) and their emphasis on ritual purity.
- **Lawyer (Nomikos):** In the context of the New Testament, these were experts in the Mosaic Law. Some were also Pharisees, and they played a role in interpreting and applying religious law.
- **Hypocrisy:** The practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform; pretending to be virtuous.
- **Ritual Purity:** A state of ceremonial cleanliness required by Jewish law for participation in religious activities and sometimes daily life, often achieved through specific washing practices.
- **Tithing:** The practice of giving one-tenth of one's income or produce for religious purposes.
- **Woe:** An expression of deep sorrow, grief, or denunciation. In the Gospels, Jesus often uses "woe" to pronounce judgment on those who act contrary to God's will.
- **Leaven (Figurative):** Used metaphorically to represent a pervasive and corrupting influence that spreads throughout something. In this context, it refers to the hypocrisy of the Pharisees.
- **Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit:** A sin that Jesus indicates will not be forgiven (though its exact nature is debated). In the context of this passage, it can be understood as a deliberate and malicious rejection of God's truth and power made manifest through the Spirit.
- **Eschatological:** Relating to the end times or the final destiny of humanity and the world. Jesus' reference to being acknowledged before the angels of God speaks to a future judgment.
- **Sanhedrin:** The supreme Jewish council in ancient Jerusalem. It had religious, political, and judicial responsibilities.

5. FAQs on Darko, Luke, Session 19, Jesus versus Pharisees and Lawyers (Luke 11:37-12:12), Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions: Jesus' Confrontation with Pharisees and Lawyers in Luke 11-12

1. Why did Jesus accept the Pharisee's invitation to dine, considering their adversarial relationship? While the Gospels often depict tension between Jesus and the Pharisees, Luke's account suggests a more nuanced relationship. Pharisees weren't universally negative figures in Luke and Acts; some even held positive interactions with Jesus. Accepting the invitation was culturally significant, representing hospitality and an opportunity for fellowship within the host's inner circle. However, Jesus' subsequent actions indicate that he intended to use this setting for a critical lesson.

2. What was the primary point of contention between Jesus and the Pharisees during the meal? The immediate point of contention was Jesus' failure to perform ritual handwashing before eating, a custom highly valued by the Pharisees for ritual purity, not just hygiene. Jesus used this as a springboard to address a deeper issue: the Pharisees' focus on outward appearances of cleanliness while their inner selves were "full of greed and wickedness." He emphasized that true purity comes from within, prioritizing justice and the love of God over meticulous adherence to external rituals.

3. How did Jesus critique the Pharisees, and what were the main "woes" he pronounced against them? Jesus critiqued the Pharisees for their hypocrisy, highlighting the disparity between their outward religious practices and their inner moral state. The "woes" he pronounced focused on:

- Cleansing the outside of the cup and dish but being inwardly full of greed and wickedness.
- Meticulously tithing even small herbs while neglecting justice and the love of God.
- Loving the best seats in synagogues and respectful greetings in public, indicating their desire for public recognition.
- Being like unmarked graves, outwardly appearing ordinary but inwardly containing spiritual defilement that could unknowingly affect others.

4. How did the lawyers respond to Jesus' rebukes of the Pharisees, and what was Jesus' response to them? One of the lawyers objected, feeling that Jesus' words also insulted them. Jesus then pronounced "woes" against the lawyers as well, criticizing them for:

- Loading people with burdensome interpretations of the law that they themselves did not follow.
- Building tombs for the prophets whom their ancestors had killed, thereby hypocritically honoring those they would have persecuted themselves.
- Taking away the "key of knowledge" by obscuring the true understanding of God's will and hindering others from entering into it.

5. What does the passage reveal about the importance of "inner" versus "outer" righteousness in Jesus' teachings? This passage strongly emphasizes the priority of inner righteousness over outward displays of piety. Jesus consistently condemns the Pharisees and lawyers for their focus on external rituals and appearances while neglecting the core principles of justice, love, and genuine faith. He argues that God, who created both the inside and the outside, values inner transformation and purity of heart above all else.

6. Following the confrontation, what warnings and encouragements did Jesus give to his disciples in Luke 12? Knowing that the Pharisees and scribes were now actively seeking to entrap him, Jesus turned to his disciples and warned them about:

- **The leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy:** He urged them to be vigilant against the corrupting influence of outward show without inner substance, emphasizing that all hidden hypocrisy will eventually be revealed.
- **Fear:** He told them not to fear those who can only kill the body but to fear God, who has ultimate authority. He encouraged them to trust in God's care and value for them, even more than for sparrows.
- **The importance of acknowledging Jesus:** He stated that those who acknowledge him before others will be acknowledged before the angels of God, while those who deny him will be denied. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, however, will not be forgiven.
- **Preparedness in the face of persecution:** When brought before authorities, they should not be anxious about what to say, as the Holy Spirit will guide them in that very hour.

7. How does the concept of "witness" relate to Jesus' instructions to his disciples in this context? Jesus emphasizes the importance of being true witnesses, both in their present actions and in the face of potential persecution. Acknowledging him before others is presented as a crucial aspect of this witness, with eternal consequences. He prepares them for situations where their faith will be tested, assuring them that the Holy Spirit will empower them to speak truthfully.

8. What does this passage teach about discipleship and following Jesus, particularly in the face of opposition? This passage underscores that true discipleship involves more than external adherence to religious customs; it demands inner transformation and a commitment to justice and love. Following Jesus may lead to opposition and persecution, but disciples are called to be fearless, trusting in God's provision and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They are to remain steadfast in their witness, knowing that their faithfulness has eternal significance.