

Dr. Daniel K. Darko, Gospel of Luke, Session 20, Possessions and Provision (Luke 12:13-34) Resources from NotebookLM

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

1. Abstract of Darko, Luke, Session 20, Possessions and Provision (Luke 12:13-34), Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Daniel K. Darko's Session 20 lecture on Luke 12:13-34, titled "**Possessions and Provision**," examines Jesus' teachings on **greed, priorities, and trust in God for needs**. The session begins with Jesus addressing a question about inheritance, which leads to the **parable of the rich fool** as a warning against prioritizing material wealth. Darko highlights Jesus' emphasis on **seeking God's kingdom** over worldly possessions, using the examples of ravens and lilies to illustrate God's provision. Ultimately, the lecture encourages listeners to **reorient their hearts towards heavenly treasures** and trust in God's care rather than being consumed by anxiety over material needs.

2. 15 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Darko, Luke, Session 20 – 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
n20.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Darko, Luke, Session 20, Possessions and Provision (Luke 12:13-34)

Briefing Document: Dr. Daniel K. Darko on Luke 12:13-34 - Possessions and Provision

Overview:

This briefing document summarizes the main themes and important ideas presented by Dr. Daniel K. Darko in his session on Luke 12:13-34, focusing on possessions and provision. Dr. Darko analyzes Jesus' response to a request regarding inheritance, the parable of the rich fool, and Jesus' subsequent teachings on anxiety and the pursuit of the Kingdom of God. The session highlights the dangers of greed, the misplaced priority of accumulating earthly wealth, and the importance of trusting in God for provision while seeking His Kingdom.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

1. The Inheritance Question and the Issue of Greed:

- The session begins with a man from the crowd interrupting Jesus to ask him to mediate an inheritance dispute with his brother.
- Jesus' response, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" (Luke 12:14), reveals his primary focus is not on earthly legal matters of wealth distribution.
- Jesus uses this opportunity to address the underlying issue of greed, stating, **"Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."** (Luke 12:15). This is identified as the central thesis of this discourse.
- Dr. Darko notes that the man recognized Jesus' authority as a teacher of the law but suggests Jesus saw beyond the surface of the request to a potential desire for more rather than a genuine need.
- Jesus' primary task is seen as dealing with the spiritual and kingdom-focused aspects of life, not indulging in the redistribution of wealth.

1. The Parable of the Rich Fool:

- Jesus follows the inheritance question with the parable of the rich fool (Luke 12:16-21) to illustrate the folly of prioritizing earthly possessions over being "rich toward God" (Luke 12:21).

- Key observations from the parable:
- The rich landowner is unnamed, suggesting the universality of this issue.
- The land, representing God's provision, produced abundantly, yet the man focuses solely on his own actions ("I will tear down my barns and build larger ones... And there I will store all my grain and my goods.").
- The man's plans are self-centered, emphasizing "I" and his own enjoyment ("And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.").
- God's judgment ("Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?") highlights the transience of earthly wealth and the importance of spiritual wealth.
- Lessons from the parable:
- Focusing on self in matters of possession is a "wrong belief system" that can lead to isolation and blindness to the true source of provision.
- True foolishness lies not in prudent planning but in the sole emphasis on oneself and the belief that satisfaction comes from an abundance of wealth.
- True disciples should look beyond themselves to find treasures in God.

1. **Avoiding Anxiety and Trusting in God's Provision:**

- Following the parable, Jesus shifts to address his disciples directly, urging them not to be anxious about their lives (Luke 12:22-31).
- He uses analogies from nature:
- **Ravens:** "Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!" (Luke 12:24). This illustrates God's care for even seemingly insignificant creatures.
- **Lilies:** "Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." (Luke 12:27). This highlights God's ability to provide beauty and care without human effort.
- Dr. Darko emphasizes that anxiety often stems from trying to control what we cannot and focusing on things that are not truly worthy of our worry. He quotes

that only a small percentage of our anxieties are based on real issues, and even fewer are within our control.

- Jesus contrasts the anxious pursuit of material things by "all the nations of the world" (Luke 12:30) with the focus of his followers, whose "Father knows that you need them" (Luke 12:30).

1. Seeking the Kingdom of God:

- Jesus instructs his disciples, **"Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you."** (Luke 12:31).
- Dr. Darko explains that seeking the kingdom is equivalent to seeking the reign and rule of God in one's life, inviting God into every situation.
- He reassures the "little flock" (Luke 12:32) that it is the Father's "good pleasure to give you the kingdom," emphasizing God's desire to provide for those who trust Him.

1. The Call to Generosity and Eternal Treasure:

- Jesus concludes this section with a radical call to generosity: **"Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."** (Luke 12:33-34).
- This is presented as a substitution of greed with generosity and a focus on acquiring eternal, heavenly treasure rather than perishable earthly possessions.
- Dr. Darko quotes Joel Green's commentary, stating that "seeking the kingdom is tantamount to setting one's heart on the kingdom," leading to a heavenly treasure beyond earthly exigencies and divine intervention.

Application and Conclusion:

- Dr. Darko encourages listeners to examine their own priorities regarding possessions and their level of trust in God's provision.
- He shares personal anecdotes of observing both material wealth and simplicity, concluding that material possessions do not guarantee a flourishing life.

- The core message is to prioritize seeking God's Kingdom and trusting in His provision, which will lead to true fulfillment and lasting treasure. Greed should be replaced with generosity, and the focus should shift from accumulating earthly wealth to investing in eternal values.

This session by Dr. Darko provides a detailed analysis of Luke 12:13-34, offering valuable insights into Jesus' teachings on possessions, provision, greed, anxiety, and the paramount importance of seeking the Kingdom of God.

4. Study Guide: Darko, Luke, Session 20, Possessions and Provision (Luke 12:13-34)

Study Guide: Luke 12:13-34 - Possessions and Provision

Key Themes: Greed, True Life, Trust in God's Provision, Kingdom Priorities, Generosity

I. Overview of the Passage (Luke 12:13-34):

- **Context:** This passage occurs during Jesus' journey towards Jerusalem and follows teachings on discipleship and preparedness for judgment.
- **Trigger:** The teaching is prompted by an interruption from someone in the crowd requesting Jesus' intervention in an inheritance dispute.
- **Jesus' Response:** Jesus uses the specific request as an opportunity to address the broader issues of greed and the misplaced value placed on material possessions.
- **Key Sections:** The question of inheritance and Jesus' warning against covetousness (12:13-15).
- The parable of the rich fool, illustrating the folly of hoarding wealth for selfish pleasure (12:16-21).
- Jesus' teaching on not being anxious about life's necessities, emphasizing God's provision (12:22-31).
- The call to seek God's kingdom and the promise that other needs will be met (12:31).
- The exhortation to sell possessions, give to the needy, and store up treasure in heaven (12:33-34).

II. Main Points and Concepts:

- **Greed vs. Need:** Jesus distinguishes between legitimate needs and the insatiable desire for more, even when one has enough. The inheritance seeker's motivation is questioned, suggesting a potential for greed rather than genuine need.
- **True Life:** Jesus states clearly that "life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." He challenges the notion that material wealth equates to a fulfilling life.
- **The Parable of the Rich Fool:** This parable illustrates the foolishness of prioritizing material accumulation and personal comfort without considering one's mortality.

and relationship with God. The focus on "I," "my," and "myself" highlights the self-centeredness of the rich man. The fact that the land, provided by God, was the source of the abundance is a crucial detail.

- **Anxiety and Trust:** Jesus teaches against anxiety regarding basic needs like food and clothing. He uses the examples of ravens and lilies to demonstrate God's care for creation, implying that humans, being far more valuable, should trust in God's provision.
- **Kingdom Priorities:** Disciples are called to "seek His kingdom" rather than obsessing over material needs. Seeking God's reign and rule in one's life should be the primary focus.
- **Heavenly Treasure:** Jesus encourages his followers to invest in eternal, spiritual treasures rather than temporal, earthly ones. Giving to the needy is presented as a way to build this lasting treasure.
- **The Heart's Allegiance:** The concluding statement, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," emphasizes the connection between what we value and where our priorities and affections lie.
- **Generosity as an Antidote to Greed:** The call to sell possessions and give to the needy directly counters the impulse of greed and encourages a lifestyle of generosity.
- **God's Pleasure in Provision:** Jesus assures his "little flock" that it is the Father's "good pleasure to give you the kingdom" and to provide for their needs.

III. Key Figures and Their Roles:

- **Jesus:** The central teacher and figure, addressing the question, telling the parable, and delivering the core teachings on possessions and provision. He demonstrates insight into human motivations and redirects focus towards spiritual priorities.
- **The Man from the Crowd:** His question about inheritance serves as the catalyst for Jesus' teaching on greed and possessions. He represents a common human concern that Jesus uses to address deeper spiritual issues.
- **The Rich Landowner (in the Parable):** Represents someone whose life is dominated by the accumulation of wealth and self-indulgence, neglecting his relationship with God and the fleeting nature of earthly possessions.

- **The Disciples (Implied Audience):** While one person asks the question, Jesus' teachings are directed towards a broader audience, including his disciples, instructing them on the proper perspective on possessions and God's provision.

IV. Connections to Other Biblical Texts:

- **Matthew 6:19-34 (Sermon on the Mount):** Parallels Jesus' teaching on anxiety and the importance of seeking God's kingdom first.
- **Deuteronomy and Numbers (Inheritance Laws):** Referenced as the legal context the man from the crowd appeals to, highlighting Jesus' deliberate move beyond purely legalistic interpretations.
- **Luke 6:20-49 (Sermon on the Plain):** Contains similar themes of prioritizing spiritual wealth and warnings against the dangers of earthly riches.

V. Application and Reflection:

- Consider your own attitudes towards possessions and wealth.
- Where do your anxieties lie? Do you trust God for your provision?
- What kind of "treasure" are you accumulating in your life?
- How does this passage challenge the values of contemporary society?
- What practical steps can you take to prioritize seeking God's kingdom and practicing generosity?

Quiz: Possessions and Provision (Luke 12:13-34)

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What prompted Jesus to teach about possessions and provision in Luke 12:13-34?
2. What was the central thesis Jesus presented regarding life and possessions in verse 15?
3. Describe the key characteristic that made the rich landowner in Jesus' parable a "fool."
4. According to Jesus, what should be the primary focus of his disciples instead of being anxious about their basic needs?
5. What two examples from nature did Jesus use to illustrate God's care and provision? What was the point of these examples?

6. What does it mean to "seek His kingdom," according to Dr. Darko's interpretation?
7. What did Jesus tell his listeners to do with their possessions in verses 33-34, and what was the reasoning behind this instruction?
8. What kind of treasure did Jesus encourage his followers to pursue, and why?
9. What does the concluding statement, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," imply about human priorities?
10. How does the passage distinguish between the concerns of the "nations" (Gentiles) and the priorities of Jesus' followers regarding provision?

Quiz Answer Key:

1. Jesus was prompted to teach about possessions and provision when someone in the crowd interrupted his teaching to ask him to mediate an inheritance dispute with his brother. This request allowed Jesus to address the underlying issue of greed.
2. The central thesis Jesus presented was that "one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." This statement challenged the common belief that material wealth equates to a meaningful or secure life.
3. The rich landowner was considered a "fool" because he prioritized accumulating wealth for his own selfish pleasure and future security, neglecting his relationship with God and the reality of his own mortality. His focus was entirely on himself and his possessions.
4. Instead of being anxious about what they will eat or wear, Jesus said that his disciples should primarily focus on seeking God's kingdom. He promised that if they prioritize God's reign, their other necessary provisions would be added to them.
5. Jesus used the examples of ravens, who neither sow nor reap yet are fed by God, and lilies, which do not toil or spin yet are beautifully clothed by God. The point of these examples was to illustrate God's providential care for all of creation and encourage trust in His ability to provide for humans, who are far more valuable.
6. According to Dr. Darko, to "seek His kingdom" means to seek God's reign and rule in one's life and circumstances. It involves inviting God into one's space so that He can take mastery and provide what is needed.

7. Jesus told his listeners to sell their possessions and give to the needy, providing themselves with a "moneybag that does not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail." The reasoning was to encourage generosity and to shift their focus from earthly, perishable wealth to eternal, heavenly treasure.
8. Jesus encouraged his followers to pursue treasure in heaven, which is imperishable and secure from earthly threats like thieves and moths. This spiritual treasure, gained through acts of generosity and seeking God's kingdom, offers lasting value and fulfillment.
9. The statement implies that what people value most and invest their time and energy in will ultimately determine their priorities, affections, and the focus of their lives. Our "treasure" reveals where our true heart lies.
10. The passage distinguishes between the concerns of the "nations" (Gentiles), who anxiously seek after material things because they lack faith in a providing God, and the priorities of Jesus' followers, who should trust their Father in heaven to meet their needs while they seek His kingdom.

Essay Format Questions:

1. Analyze the motivations behind the request of the man in the crowd (Luke 12:13) and discuss how Jesus' response addresses deeper issues beyond the immediate concern of inheritance.
2. Compare and contrast the character of the rich landowner in the parable (Luke 12:16-21) with the characteristics Jesus encourages in his disciples regarding possessions and provision.
3. Discuss the significance of Jesus' use of natural illustrations (ravens and lilies) in his teaching on anxiety (Luke 12:22-31). How do these examples support his call to trust in God's provision?
4. Explore the connection between seeking God's kingdom and the promise of provision in Luke 12:31. What does it practically mean to "seek His kingdom," and how does this relate to material needs?
5. Examine Jesus' instruction to "sell your possessions and give to the needy" (Luke 12:33) within the broader context of his teachings on wealth, generosity, and storing up treasure in heaven. What are the implications of this command for his followers?

Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Covetousness:** An excessive or inordinate desire, especially for wealth or possessions; greed.
- **Provision:** The act of supplying or providing something needed or useful. In this context, it refers to God's act of meeting the needs of His creation.
- **Parable:** A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels.
- **Anxiety:** A feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease about something with an uncertain outcome. In this context, Jesus addresses worry about basic life necessities.
- **Kingdom of God (or His Kingdom):** The reign or rule of God in the hearts of believers and ultimately over all creation. It represents God's will being done.
- **Disciple:** A follower or learner of Jesus Christ.
- **Greed:** Intense and selfish desire for something, especially wealth, power, or food.
- **Generosity:** The quality of being kind and giving; willingness to give more money or time to people than is strictly necessary or expected.
- **Heavenly Treasure:** Spiritual and eternal riches that are gained through faith, good deeds, and a focus on God's kingdom, as opposed to earthly, temporary possessions.
- **Little Flock:** A term of endearment used by Jesus to refer to his followers, emphasizing his role as their shepherd and their dependence on him and the Father.

5. FAQs on Darko, Luke, Session 20, Possessions and Provision (Luke 12:13-34), Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions on Possessions and Provisions in Luke 12:13-34

1. What prompted Jesus to discuss possessions and provisions in Luke 12:13-34?

Jesus' teaching on possessions and provisions was triggered by an interruption from the crowd. A man asked Jesus to tell his brother to divide the inheritance with him. This request prompted Jesus to address the underlying issue of greed and the misplaced priority of material wealth in one's life. Jesus saw through the man's request and recognized a potential desire for more rather than a genuine need, leading him to pivot to the broader topic of true life and its relation to possessions.

2. What was Jesus' initial response to the man seeking his help with inheritance, and what did it reveal about Jesus' mission?

Jesus responded to the man by saying, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" This response indicates that Jesus' primary mission was not to settle legal disputes or redistribute wealth. While acknowledging the validity of the law regarding inheritance, Jesus' focus was on the spiritual and eternal aspects of life and the kingdom of God, rather than being entangled in worldly affairs concerning material possessions. He came to address deeper issues of the heart, such as greed and misplaced priorities.

3. What is the central message of the Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21) in the context of possessions?

The Parable of the Rich Fool illustrates the folly of prioritizing the accumulation of wealth for personal satisfaction and security while neglecting one's relationship with God. The rich man's land produced abundantly, leading him to plan for greater storage and a life of ease, solely focused on his own enjoyment. However, God calls him a fool, as his life is demanded of him that very night, and his accumulated wealth becomes meaningless. The parable underscores the central thesis that "life does not consist in the abundance of possessions" and that true richness lies in being "rich toward God."

4. According to Dr. Darko, what are some key observations and lessons from the Parable of the Rich Fool?

Key observations include: the rich landowner is unnamed (suggesting universality), the land's productivity is emphasized (highlighting God's provision, not the man's doing), the man's craving stems from abundance, and his planning is self-centered. Lessons learned are that focusing on self in matters of possession is a wrong belief system, it can lead to isolation and blindness to the true source of provision, and that true satisfaction is not found in wealth. The parable critiques the "philosophy of me-ism" and the false sense of control over the future that wealth can create.

5. Following the parable, what does Jesus teach about anxiety and the provision of needs (Luke 12:22-31)?

Jesus instructs his disciples not to be anxious about their life, what they will eat, or what they will wear, emphasizing that life is more than food and the body more than clothing. He uses the examples of ravens, which God feeds without them sowing or reaping, and lilies, which are beautifully clothed by God without toil or spinning, to illustrate God's care for his creation. He argues that if God provides for even these less significant aspects of nature, how much more will he provide for his people. Jesus contrasts the anxiety of the "nations" (Gentiles) with the trust that his followers should have in their Father, who knows their needs.

6. What does Jesus mean when he tells his followers to "seek His kingdom" (Luke 12:31), and how does this relate to their material needs?

Seeking God's kingdom signifies prioritizing God's reign and rule in one's life, inviting God into their circumstances and trusting in His provision. Dr. Darko explains that the kingdom represents the reign of God, where God takes mastery and provides what is needed. Jesus assures his followers that if they focus on seeking His kingdom, all their necessary material things will be "added to them." This implies that by prioritizing a relationship with God and His will, their earthly needs will be met by a loving and capable Father.

7. What is the significance of Jesus' instruction to "sell your possessions and give to the needy" (Luke 12:33-34)?

Jesus' call to sell possessions and give to the needy is a radical instruction that challenges the natural human inclination to accumulate and hoard wealth. It is a call to substitute greed with generosity and to focus on eternal values rather than earthly treasures. By letting go of material possessions and giving to those in need, believers are investing in a "treasure in the heavens that does not fail," a treasure that is not subject to earthly decay or theft. This act of generosity reflects a heart that is focused on God and others, aligning with the principle that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

8. How does Dr. Darko connect these teachings to the lives of Luke's original audience (including Theophilus) and to contemporary believers?

Dr. Darko highlights that Luke was writing to an elite audience, including Theophilus, reminding them that status and possessions should be viewed through the lens of Jesus' teachings. Applying these teachings today involves examining our own priorities regarding possessions and our level of trust in God's provision. Dr. Darko shares personal observations of contentment in those with little material wealth and the potential emptiness of abundant possessions, urging believers to seek the kingdom of God as the source of true fulfillment and lasting treasure, rather than allowing greed to rob them of the life God offers.