



LUKAN TRAVEL NARRATIVE

CONTINUES - Chapter 12 and following

HYPOCRISY

Lk 12:1

The Leaven of the Pharisees

- Here, the message is to his disciples.
Beware ...
- Jesus cautions the disciples *before* encouraging **them** regarding the upcoming prosecutions.





PERSECUTION

February 12, 2015

COURAGE

Lk 12:2-9*

Courage under Persecution

- What said in darkness will be brought to light, whispered behind closed doors will be shouted.
- This is a warning for the disciples to endure martyrdom rather than betray their faith, even if such a betrayal is offered in secret.
 - Betrayals made in secret will be revealed

COURAGE

- Next a reference to the Pharisees or those in authority, who may plot and succeed in killing the body.
- A caution that the real killer is the one that after killing causes the dead person to end up in Gehenna.
 - See **Matthew 10:28***
 - **kill body and soul** - *spiritual death* is the real fear for any believer. It follows from denying Christ.

COURAGE

- Read Matthew 10: 29-33*
- **Sparrow** that falls to the ground (dies), does not do so without your Father's knowledge



God the **Father knows** about your **martyrdom**, even when you are killed in secret.

- **Emphasis** - even every hair in our head is counted. Meaning even the loss of One Hair, due to persecution will not escape God's attention!

COURAGE

- Jesus then says: “Everyone who acknowledges me before others, I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.”
 - **Why?** - Our Father in heaven already knows about our martyrdom or lack thereof
 - and ... we know that He knows.
- But it is Jesus who ultimately judges the living and the dead. So, as The Way, it is He who pronounces judgment. if we decide to keep our life, we will lose it
cf. Matthew 16:25

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW CONTEXT

Mt 10:16-22

70 AD

**Destruction of the
Temple**





COMING PERSECUTIONS

- Read Mt 10:16:22*
- Jesus is describing events that will occur between 33AD and 70AD, which culminate with the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem
 - but also usher the age of Persecution in the Roman Empire that will lead to the martyrdom of Saints Peter & Paul.
- Some of these events are recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, others are recorded by Josephus, the first century Jewish historian.

COMING PERSECUTIONS



- **sheep amid wolves** - see **Acts 20:29** - to the Bishops of Miletus. The Holy Spirit has appointed you - **episkopous ἐπισκόπους** - **poimainein ποιμαίνειν** to shepherd” ...
- “I know that after my departure **savage wolves** will come among you, and they will not spare the flock”

COMING PERSECUTIONS



- Hand you over to courts and scourge you in synagogues - see Acts 5:17-41
- Saints Peter and John rejoicing after being flogged on order of the Sanhedrin, in that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name (HaShem)

COMING PERSECUTIONS



Herod Agrippa

- **Before Governors and Kings** -
cf **Acts 9:15** The Lord says to Ananias that St Paul is his chosen instrument to carry His name before the Gentiles (Roman authorities) kings and Israelites.
- This is fulfilled in Chapters 25 and 26 of the Act of the Apostles. cf **Acts 25:6** before the Governor Festus, **Acts 26:1** before King Agrippa.

COMING PERSECUTIONS

- Don't worry about what to say, the Holy Spirit will speak through you.

St Stephen martyrdom.

- cf Acts 6:8 - Deacon Stephen is filled with grace and power ... Acts 7:54* - fulfillment begins through the first martyr and continues through today.



COMING PERSECUTIONS



- You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved.
- “the end” is the end of our life. cf 10:28
- *perseverance in faith under persecution is required for eternal life.*

RICH FOOL



HE SAID TO HIMSELF

I WILL BUILD A BIGGER BARN

- **Lk 12: 16-21***
 - preceding verse
“Take care to guard against all greed, ... one’s life does not consist of possessions.”
- **Leads to Lk 12: 22-34***

RICH FOOL

- This man's **stupidity** consisted in **making material possession his only aim in life and his only insurance policy.**
- It is **lawful** for a person to want to own what he **needs** for living, **but if possession of material resources becomes an absolute, it spells the ultimate destruction of the individual...**
 - *... for it then destroys man's dependence on God.*

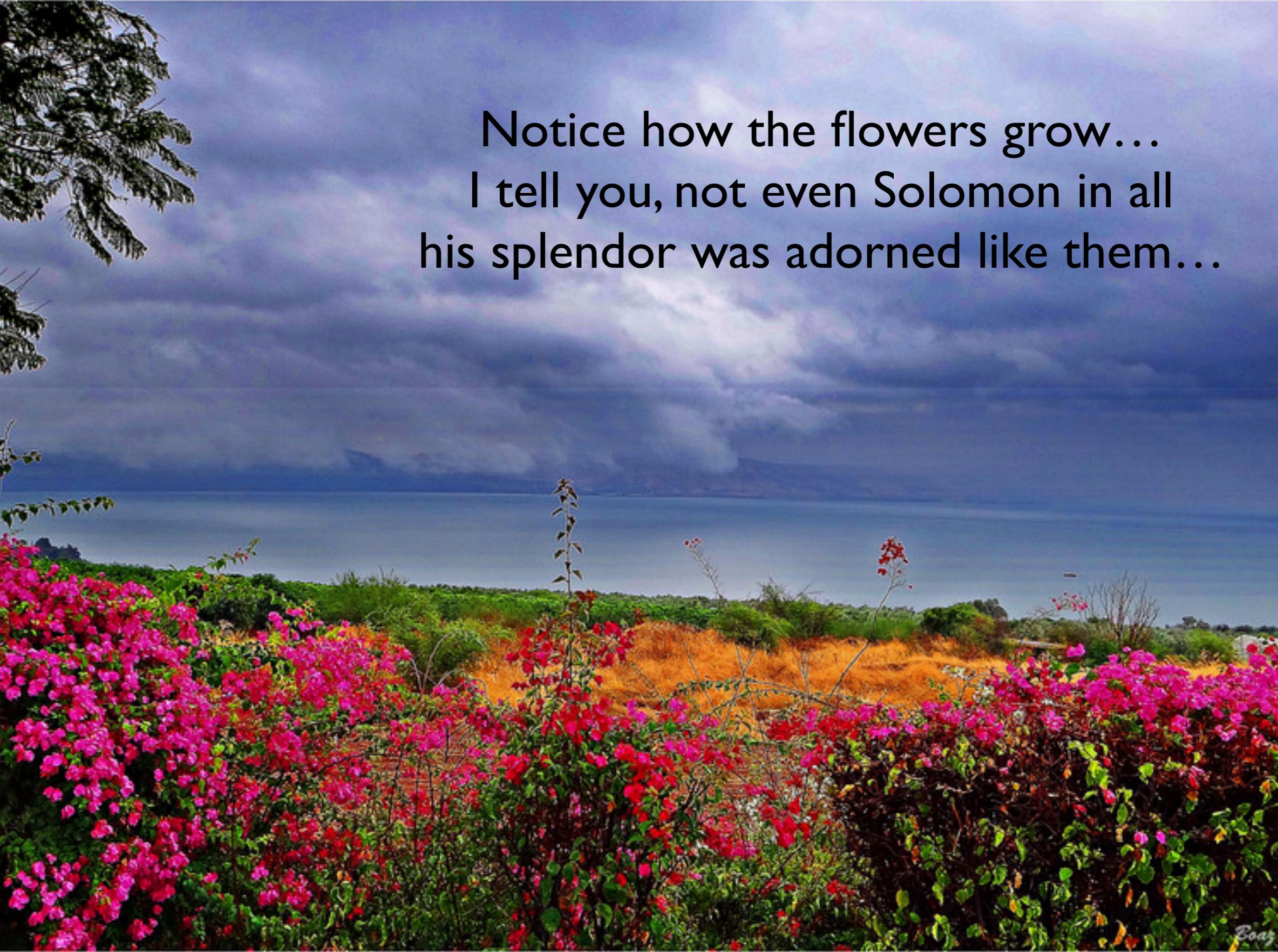
Saint Luke's Gospel. (2005). (p. 123). Dublin; New York: Four Courts Press; Scepter Publishers.

RICH FOOL



- What might have the rich man's **better attitude** have been, given Jesus words that the Rich fool ...
 - ... **stored up treasures for himself but was not rich in what matters to God?**

Notice how the flowers grow...
I tell you, not even Solomon in all
his splendor was adorned like them...



VIGILANT SERVANTS

Lk 12:35-48*

Be prepared for when the Son of Man will come



- Is this message for his apostles or for everyone?
 Be ready ...
- Guilt based on knowledge

- *A necessary prior reflection:*

“Our Lord Jesus Christ once came to men, and then went away from men, and is to come again to men.

- And yet according to His Divinity .. He was already here when He first came, nor did He depart when He went away, and He is to come again to them to whom He said, ‘**Lo, I am with you, even unto the end of the world.’**” cf. Mt 28:20



**St Augustine
Bishop of Hippo
396-430 AD**

St Augustine. Sermon on Luke 12:35

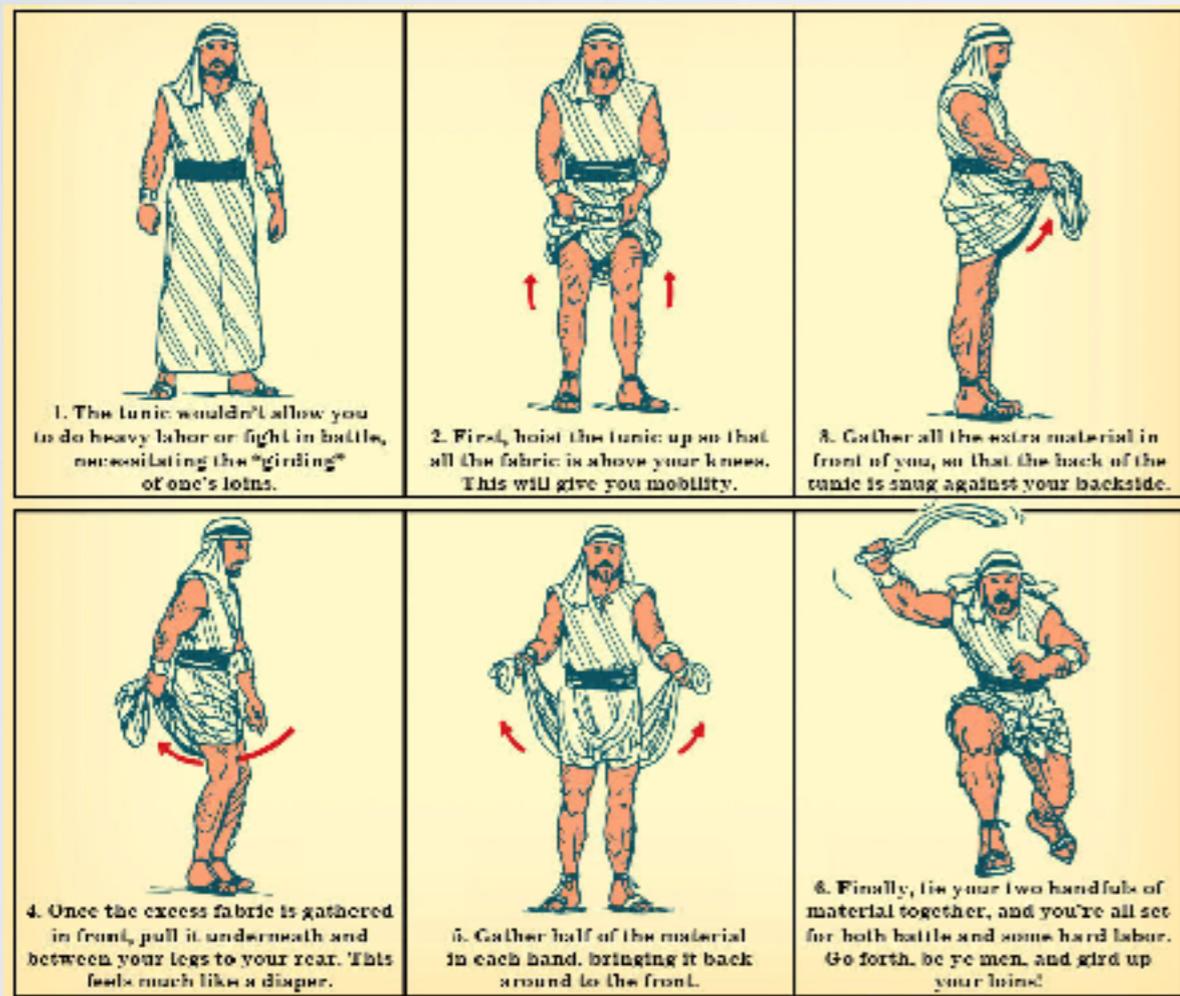
VIGILANT SERVANTS

- We need to **separate** the understanding of Our Lord's first coming at Christmas and our preparation for His second coming in time ...
 - with the reality that **He remains with us as we go about being servants in His Kingdom**, in its present unfinished form **nourished and growing through the work of His Church.**

Yes!



VIGILANT SERVANTS



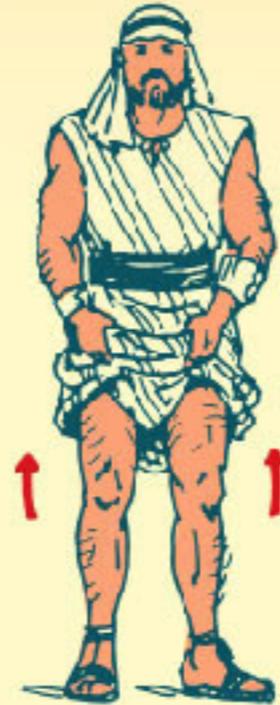
- To enable them to do certain kinds of work the Jews used to hitch up the flowing garments they normally wore.

- **“Girding your loins”** immediately suggests a person getting ready for work, for effort, for a journey.

Eph 6:14*; 1 Pet 1:13



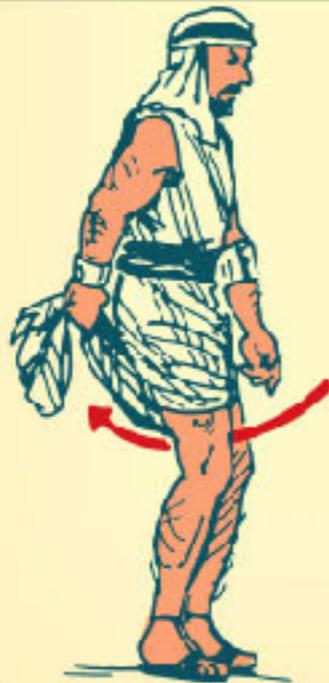
1. The tunic wouldn't allow you to do heavy labor or fight in battle, necessitating the "girding" of one's loins.



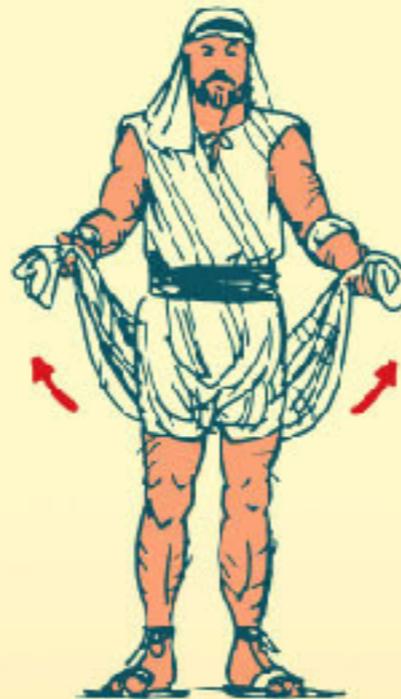
2. First, hoist the tunic up so that all the fabric is above your knees. This will give you mobility.



3. Gather all the extra material in front of you, so that the back of the tunic is snug against your backside.



4. Once the excess fabric is gathered in front, pull it underneath and between your legs to your rear. This feels much like a diaper.



5. Gather half of the material in each hand, bringing it back around to the front.



6. Finally, tie your two handfuls of material together, and you're all set for both battle and some hard labor. Go forth, be ye men, and gird up your loins!

VIGILANT SERVANTS

- Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return.
 - This is meant to be a way of daily life!
- Blessed are those who he finds vigilant on his arrival.
 - These are the ones who are working and protecting the Master's house while he is "away."
 - Hence they are **blessed** for their faithfulness.

VIGILANT SERVANTS

- If the Master of the House had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.
- Since the Master is away, He is relying on His servants to protect His House.
- Therefore, the servants must be prepared to protect the Master's House in His absence.
 - This is the context for St Peter's question, as to for whom this is meant.

VIGILANT SERVANTS

- This watchfulness expresses itself in a **spirit of prayer**
 - **Lk 21:36** - Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.
 - **1 Pet 4:7** - The end of all things is at hand. Therefore, be serious and sober for prayers.

VIGILANT SERVANTS

cour·age

'kərij/

noun

noun: courage

1 the ability to do something that frightens one.

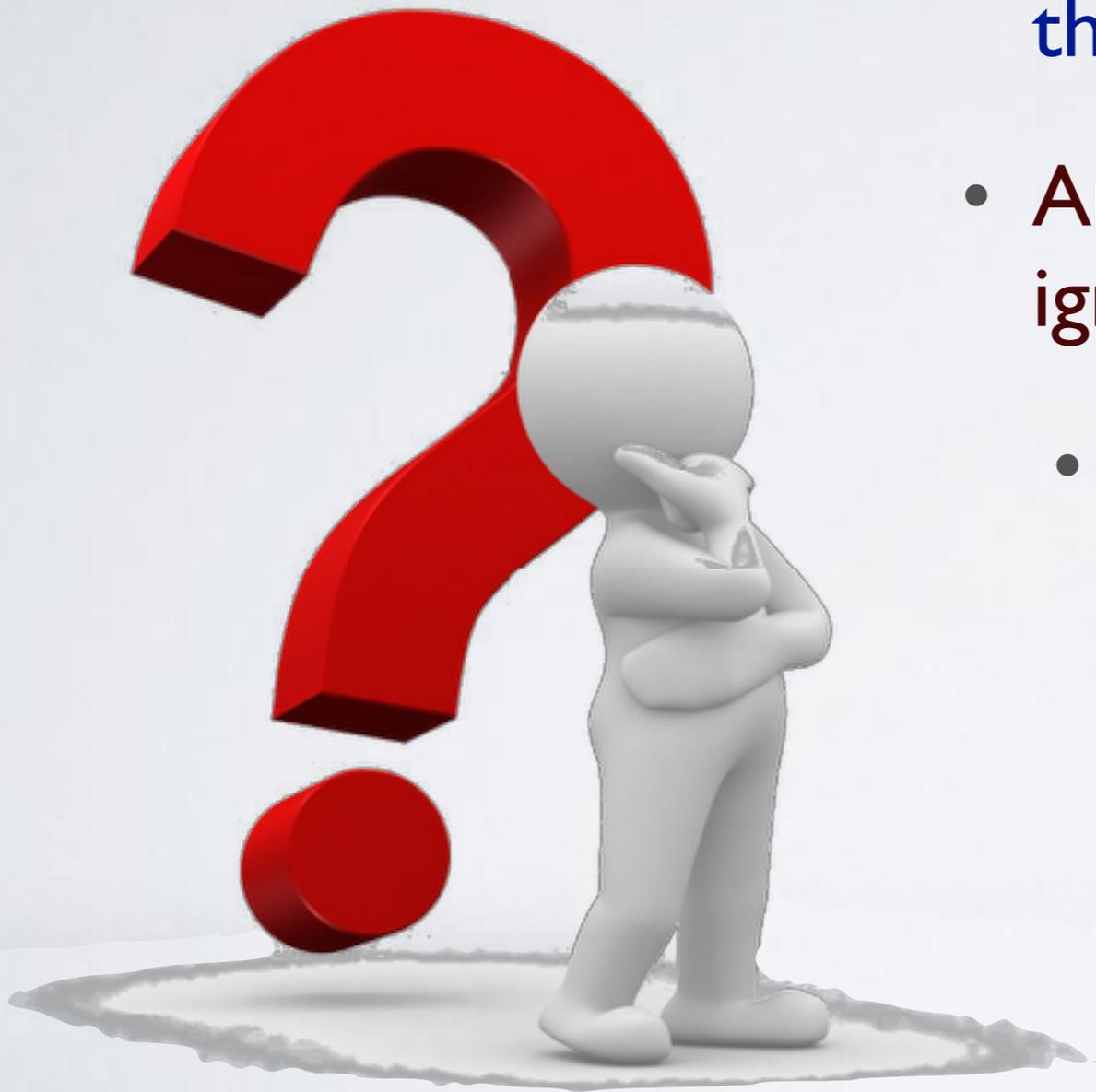
- strength in the face of pain or grief.

- This watchfulness also expresses itself as **courage in faith**

- **1 Cor 16:13** - Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong.



VIGILANT SERVANTS



- Who are the servants who know the Master's will?
- And who are the servants who are ignorant of the Master's will?
 - Why do the '**ignorant servants**' still merit punishment?
 - A **servant** has a **duty** to *learn* his Master's will.
- How does that affect us?

VIGILANT SERVANTS

- Answering Peter's question—our Lord explains that His teaching is addressed to every individual.
- God will ask everyone to render an account of his doings:
 - ◆ Everyone has a mission to fulfill in this life and he has to account for it **before the judgment seat of God** and be judged on what he has produced, be it much or little. **Luke 12:47-48**

Saint Luke's Gospel. (2005). (p. 126). Dublin; New York: Four Courts Press; Scepter Publishers.

VIGILANT SERVANTS



St Chrysostom
Bishop of Constantinople
398-407 AD

- “For all things are not judged alike in all, but greater knowledge is an occasion of greater punishment.
- Therefore shall the Priest, committing the same sin as the people, will suffer a far heavier penalty.”

St John Chrysostom
(Hom. 26. in Matt.)

VIGILANT SERVANTS



- v. 48b. “***Much*** will be required of the person entrusted with ***much***, and still ***more*** will be demanded of the person entrusted with ***more***.”
- What does this verse not say?
 - There is **no** reference to requiring *little* of someone who is entrusted *little*.



TALENTS

- **See Mt 25: 14-30*** - Parable of the Talents.
 - Great affinity with Luke 19:11-27
- How much is a Talent?
- The basis for God's judgment
- Wailing and grinding of teeth

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- This Parable is unique to St Matthew's Gospel - but consistent with the Vigilant Servant Parable.
- In both accounts the context is the behavior of the servant while the Master is away, not knowing the hour of the Master's return.



PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- We will cover more of this theme when we discuss “**The Return of Christ**” as described by Jesus in the Olivet discourse of Matthew 24 and 25.
- For now we will focus specifically on an accounting for our gifts, as it pertains to what Our Lord expects of us.
- **QUESTION:** Is it OK to simply be a nice person and nothing more? Is that a sufficient return on the stewardship of God’s Talents given to us?

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Tal·ent

'talənt/

noun

plural noun: **talents**

1. natural aptitude or skill. "He possesses more talent than any other player"
 - people possessing talent. "I signed all the talent in Rome"
2. a former weight and unit of currency, used especially by the ancient Romans and Greeks.

Origin

Old English *talente*, *talentan* (as a unit of weight), from Latin *talenta*, plural of *talentum* 'weight, sum of money,' from Greek *talanton* .

- Sense 1 is a figurative use with biblical allusion to the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14–30).

The Parable
of the
Talents



PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- How much was a Talent worth in the time of Jesus?
- When used as a measure of money, it refers to a talent-weight of gold or of silver. The **gold** talent is reported as ... typically weigh[ing] about 33 kg (75 lb)
- On Jan 17, 2018, the international price of gold was about \$1,320 per troy ounce. One gram would have cost about \$42.44. At this price **gold talent (33 kg)** would be worth ... (source:Wikipedia)

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over \$1.4 million

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- Another way to calculate a Talent - in silver ...
 - ... is from its use in estimating military pay.
- During the Peloponnesian war in Ancient Greece, a **silver talent** was the amount of silver needed to pay the crew of a trireme for one month. Mercenaries were commonly paid one drachma per day. **6,000 drachma made a talent.** (source:Wikipedia)
- A Trireme - Oar-driven Warship powered by 170 oar men + 20 officers. 6000 man-days = salary of one man for 16 years.

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over \$500,000
at CA min wage

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- In this parable the main message is the need to respond to grace by making a genuine effort right through one's life. All the gifts of nature and grace (talents) which God (the Master) has given us should yield a profit.
- It does not matter how many gifts we have received; what matters is our generosity in putting them to good use. A person's Christian calling should not lie hidden and barren: it should be outgoing, apostolic and self-sacrificial.

St Josemaría Escrivá, Founder Opus Dei, Friends of God

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- The man who hid this one talent, represents all those who, having received any good quality, whether mental or corporal, employ it only on earthly things.

S. Gregory of Nissa

- **Origen** is also of the same sentiment: if you see any one, says he, who has received from God the gift of teaching and instructing others to salvation, yet will not exercise himself in this function, he buries his talent in the ground, like this unworthy servant, and must expect to receive the like reward.

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- “You wicked, lazy servant ...”
 - Why wicked?
 - - because he **knew** the Master’s will and knowingly disobeyed.
 - Why lazy?
 - - because he **failed to do** what he ought to have done, not even doing an absolute minimum.

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- The Excuse - the Master is a demanding man, who harvests where he did not plant and who gathers where he did not scatter.
 - Some commentators see the servant as coming dangerously close to accusing his Master of being dishonest, as a reason for his fear, but ...
- The Reality - ... Jesus unmaskes the servant's motive by pointing out that “**slothfulness**” is the real reason.

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- What might we suppose Jesus meant by His statement that the servant could at least have put it in the bank where it could draw interest?



PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- What might we suppose Jesus meant by His statement that the servant could at least have put it in the bank where it could draw interest?
 - **A bank investment is passive**, the *interest earned being effected without any effort* from the person after making the deposit.
- This points to the person who does *only* those good things that bring him **no inconvenience or risk**. Its certainly not optimal for it falls short of God's command to love.

*If such be the guilt and punishment of the unprofitable, idle servant, what shall be the **guilt** of those who **not only neglect** God's graces, but positively abuse them, squander them extravagantly, and turn them against the master himself, by **converting** them to the worst purposes, to promote the reign of the enemy of God.*

MacEvilly, J. (1898). An Exposition of the Gospels of Matthew and Mark (p. 478). Dublin; New York.

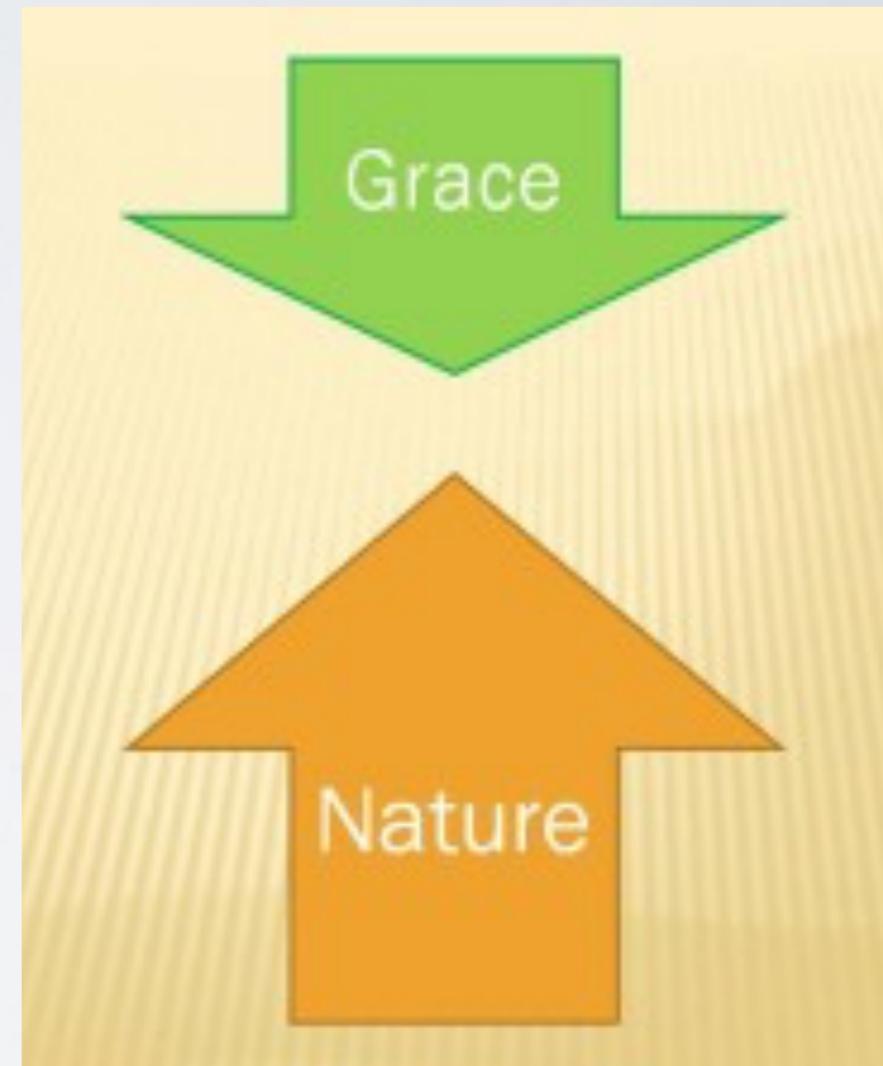


PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- Verse 29 - “For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”
 - The **reward** is directly and unambiguously contrasted with the **punishment**.
 - The good servant enters into the **joy of His Master**, while the wicked servant is cast into **the darkness outside**.

BOTTOM LINE

- **Grace builds on Nature, thus perfecting it.** *The better we live our lives, the greater the effect of Grace in us because of our cooperation.*
(More Talents)
- **God gives to each according to His good will, and in a measure according to our ability. (5 or 2 or 1)**
- **God does not expect more than we are able, but will not accept less than we ought to do with the Grace given.**



WAILING & GRINDING

- Verse 30 - “And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.”
 - First, we note that the servant starts out in the Master’s house, and as a servant **we would say he was “saved”** using modern non-Catholic talk.
 - We also note that **he ends up in darkness, apart from the light** - the light symbolizing Christ.
 - If he was “saved” he has “lost his salvation.”

WAILING & GRINDING

- Like “fear and trembling” or “what is this between you and me” - “wailing and grinding of teeth” is a Hebrew idiom.
- In the Scriptures, this idiom is:
 - Generally associated with disgust, and or
 - Associated with God’s judgment

WAILING & GRINDING

- **Wailing and grinding of teeth** - Wailing is an expression of great despair, an unconsolable state, that combined with grinding of teeth - describes a state of total disgust or total suffering.
- in Acts 7:54 we see a perfect example:
As Stephen spoke to the members of the they became *disgusted* at him, and ground their teeth at Stephen, for what he said, as he fearlessly described their *guilt* in missing Jesus as the promised Messiah.

WAILING & GRINDING

- **Psalm 37:12** says, “The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them”
cf.: **Psalm 35:16** and **Psalm 112:10**
- Great disrespect and anger is demonstrated in the above passages.
- We can see how the wicked servant in the Parable of the Talents might join those who show disgust for their Master and disobey him.

WAILING & GRINDING

- Jesus' first reference to weeping and gnashing of teeth comes in Matthew 8:12
 - There, He compares the kingdom of heaven to a feast where “many” come from all parts of the world to “recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”
 - Those who weep and gnash their teeth are those judged to be excluded from the feast by God.

WAILING & GRINDING

- In Matthew 13:41–42 Jesus teaches with His parable of the weeds sown in the field, among the wheat.
- Jesus again describes the fate of those who reject Him, this time adding to the description “the fiery furnace” into which they will be cast, “where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.”
- This place where there is wailing and grinding of teeth is none other than the Hell of the damned.

WAILING & GRINDING

- Finally, in addition to the Parable of the Talents, there is **the story of the guest who comes to the wedding feast of the Lamb without the proper clothing.**
(Matthew 22:11–13)
 - He too, not being properly attired for the wedding feast, is cast into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.
 - Clearly **Hell** will be a place of anguish, remorse, pain, and misery.

WAILING & GRINDING

- Before leaving this topic - let us **contrast** the result of wailing and grinding of teeth due to God's judgment, with **Jesus teaching in Matthew about Anger**.
- There, in Mt 5:25-26 - while anger might result in being sent to Gehenna, there is *another* possibility.
 - The result of the announced judgment differs,
 - The affected person is thrown into **prison**, *but only for a time*, until he has **paid** the last farthing (penny). **cf.: Lk 12:57-59**

WAILING & GRINDING

- Before leaving this topic - let us *cont* result of wailing and grinding. judgment, with

Your Thoughts?
Repentance before Judgment?

- The result of the announced judgment differs, there is *another possibility*.

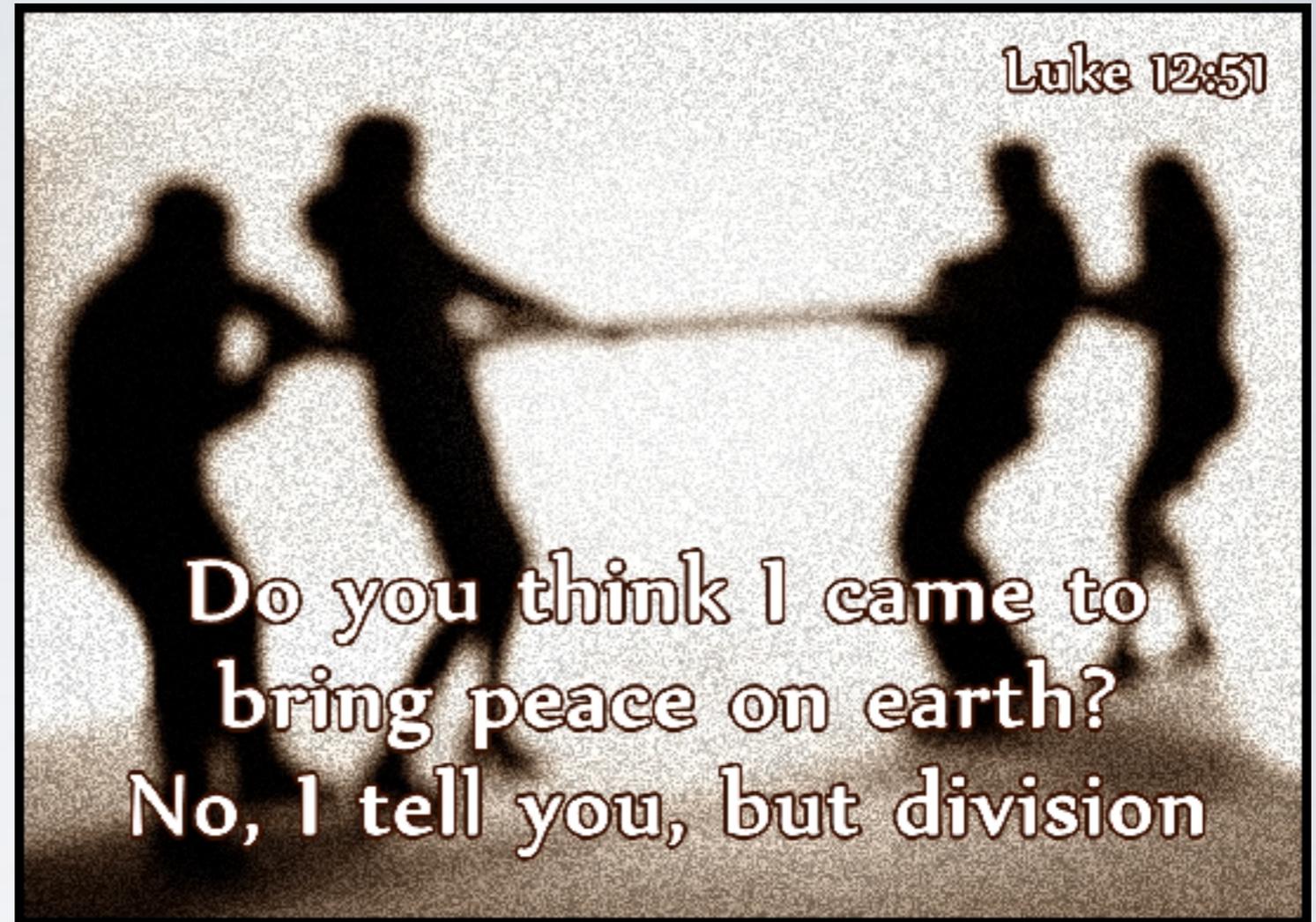
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cf.: Lk 12:57-59

CAUSE FOR DIVISION

Lk 12:49-53 Jesus:
A cause of Division

- Fire
- Baptism
- Division - among family members



FIRE OF GOD'S LOVE



- **Fire** is often used to describe God's burning love for men But see **Deut 4:24***
- Yet, he is a jealous God, who consumes those engaged in idolatry.
 - This also has the quality of judgment.
- **1 John 4:8** - The Apostle John tells us that "**God is love.**"
- He not only loves (as a verb might dictate) but **He is love** (as a noun might describe).

FIRE OF GOD'S LOVE



- The Apostle John continues the love theme in his first letter that he first recorded in his Gospel:
- God's highest expression of His love: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son"
Jn 3:16. cf 1 Jn 4:9
- Jesus voluntarily gave up his life out of love for us, and "greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"
Jn 15:13

FIRE OF GOD'S LOVE

- **I Jn 4: 7-12 -**

- “Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God.

- He who does not love does not know God; for God is love.

- In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.



FIRE OF GOD'S LOVE



- **1 Jn 4: 7-12 - (continued)**
- In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins.
- Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.“

BAPTISM - HIS PASSION

- **The Baptism of His passion** - Jesus calls his death a baptism, because from it he will arise victorious never to die again.

BAPTISM - HIS PASSION

- **The Baptism of His passion** - Jesus calls his death a baptism, because from it he will arise victorious never to die again.
- Read - **Rom 6:1-11*** - What about our Baptism?
 - Our Baptism is a submersion in Christ's death, in which we die to sin and are reborn to the new life of grace: "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" Rom 6:4

CAUSE FOR DIVISION

- **Divisions**
- Our Lord is forewarning his disciples about the contention and division which will accompany the spread of the Gospel. cf. Lk 6:20–23; Mt 10:24.
 - The fire of Divine Love also embraces Tribulation. His love demands a stand, one way or the other from us.
 - Some embrace - others deny, Division follows.

CAUSE FOR DIVISION

- The Apostles inflamed with **Divine love**, after Pentecost and the descent of the **Holy Spirit as tongues of fire ...**
 - ... braved and overcame all tribulations and sufferings, and even martyrdom for the cause of the Gospel. **In so doing, they set the Earth on fire!**
- We are not any less subject to tribulation than Our Lord and the Apostles were. **Jn 15:18-20***.

CAUSE FOR DIVISION



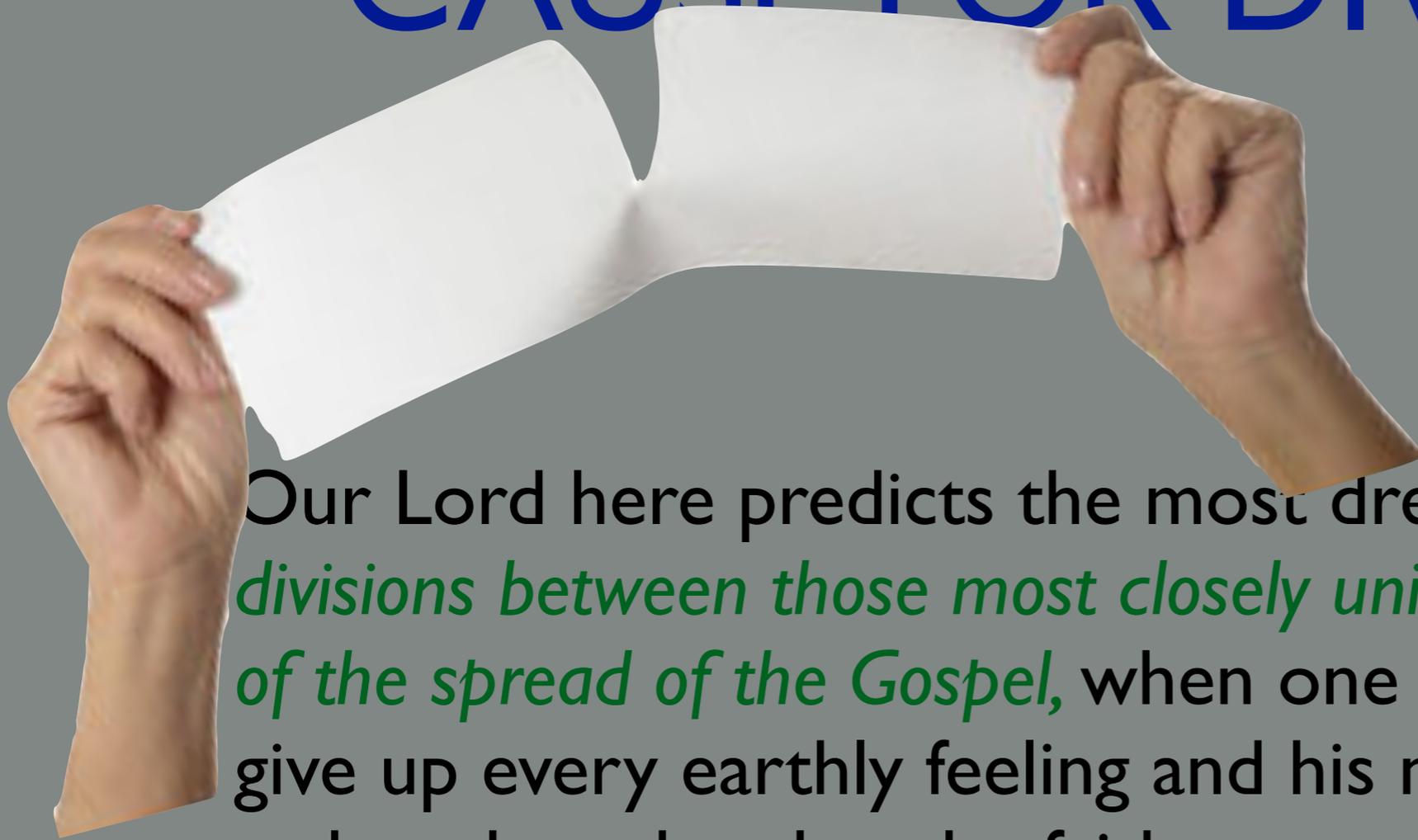
CAUSE FOR DIVISION



CAUSE FOR DIVISION

- Henceforth - “From now on ...”
 - The future can not remain as in the past.
 - Now that Christ has come - who He is - demands an answer.
- The Household where the Gospel is preached will not remain the same as it was before.

CAUSE FOR DIVISION



Our Lord here predicts the most dreadful domestic *divisions between those most closely united, in consequence of the spread of the Gospel*, when one or two would give up every earthly feeling and his natural affections rather than abandon the faith, ...

- ... while unbelievers in the same household rage against those who, embracing the faith of Christ, have abandoned the religion of their fathers.

CAUSE FOR DIVISION

- How strong do you think is the pull of a family's traditional religion, in keeping a person from leaving it, to accept Christianity?

- Jewish
- Muslim
- Protestant
- Shinto
- Hindu



CAUSE FOR DIVISION

- How strong do you think is the pull of a family's traditional religion, in keeping a person from leaving it, to accept Christianity?

- Jewish
Muslim
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Hindu

- How much of a factor is it - that you are Catholic *because your parents are Catholic?*



CAUSE FOR DIVISION

- **St Ambrose - verse 52** - Regarding Jesus' example of the Household of Five, when Six are mentioned.
- “Though the connection would seem to be of six persons, father and son, mother (*mētera*) and daughter, mother-in-law (*penthera*) and daughter-in-law, yet are they five, for the mother and the mother in law are to be taken as the same, since she who is the mother of the son, is the mother in law of his wife (the daughter-in-law).”

Thomas Aquinas. (1843). *Catena Aurea: Commentary on the Four Gospels, Collected out of the Works of the Fathers: St. Luke.*

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Lk 12:54-56



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Lk 12:54-56

- “You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky; why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

- Recall Mt 16:1-4* - The signs of the times.

- Jonah - also Mt 12: 38-42*



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

- Jesus' listeners knew from experience how to forecast the weather.
 - However, although they knew the signs of the Messiah's coming announced by the prophets, and were hearing his preaching and witnessing his miracles, they did not want to draw the logical conclusion;
- they lacked the necessary good will and upright intention, and they just closed their eyes to the light of the Gospel (cf. Rom 1:18ff).

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

- This attitude is also found to be very widespread in our own time, in the form of certain kinds of atheism denounced by the Second Vatican Council:
 - “Those who willfully try to drive God from their heart and to avoid all questions about religion,
 - not following the biddings of their conscience, are not free from blame.” (Gaudium et spes, 19).

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

- Many do not want to submit to a higher Authority.
- To believe in God requires submitting to His will, which means not doing what YOU want but doing what HE wants.
- In the US, this unwillingness to be bound by a higher authority is almost at the level of a secular dogma:
“Rugged Individualism - I do not want to be told what to do.”



