LUKE 12

Rich Toward God, Ready for the Master

leaven and sparrows, a fool with full barns, ravens and lilies, lamps lit at midnight, and a fire on the earth

> *“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.”*
> LUKE 12:32

A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

Where we are in Luke

1. Chapter 11 ended with the scribes and Pharisees “very hostile,” “plotting against Him to catch Him in something He might say” (11:53–54).

2. The chapter is still on the road to Jerusalem (9:51), and almost all of it is teaching.

3. The world behind the chapter is a farming and household world.

Fear Him, Not Them

Leaven, rooftops, sparrows, and the Spirit who gives words in the hour

LUKE 12:5

"But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!

DAVID GUZIK

Hypocrisy spreads like leaven; the unforgivable sin never wants forgiveness God's way.

R.C. SPROUL

Fear a holy Judge; no true Christian commits the unforgivable sin.

C.H. SPURGEON

Hypocrisy is pretending; providence counts sparrows; confess Christ.

MATTHEW HENRY

Hypocrites lose their fig-leaves; Christ's friends need fear no enemy.

ὑπόκρισις
HYPOKRISIS · "HYPOCRISY"

From the stage: a hypokritēs was an actor, one who answered from behind a mask.

Rich Toward God

A quarrel over an inheritance and a farmer who planned for everything but his soul

LUKE 12:15

Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

DAVID GUZIK

Greed hides behind a crusade; all about him, nothing about God.

R.C. SPROUL

Covetousness is ingratitude; eat, drink and be merry is the fool's creed.

C.H. SPURGEON

Mind your own business; he laid up for others to scatter.

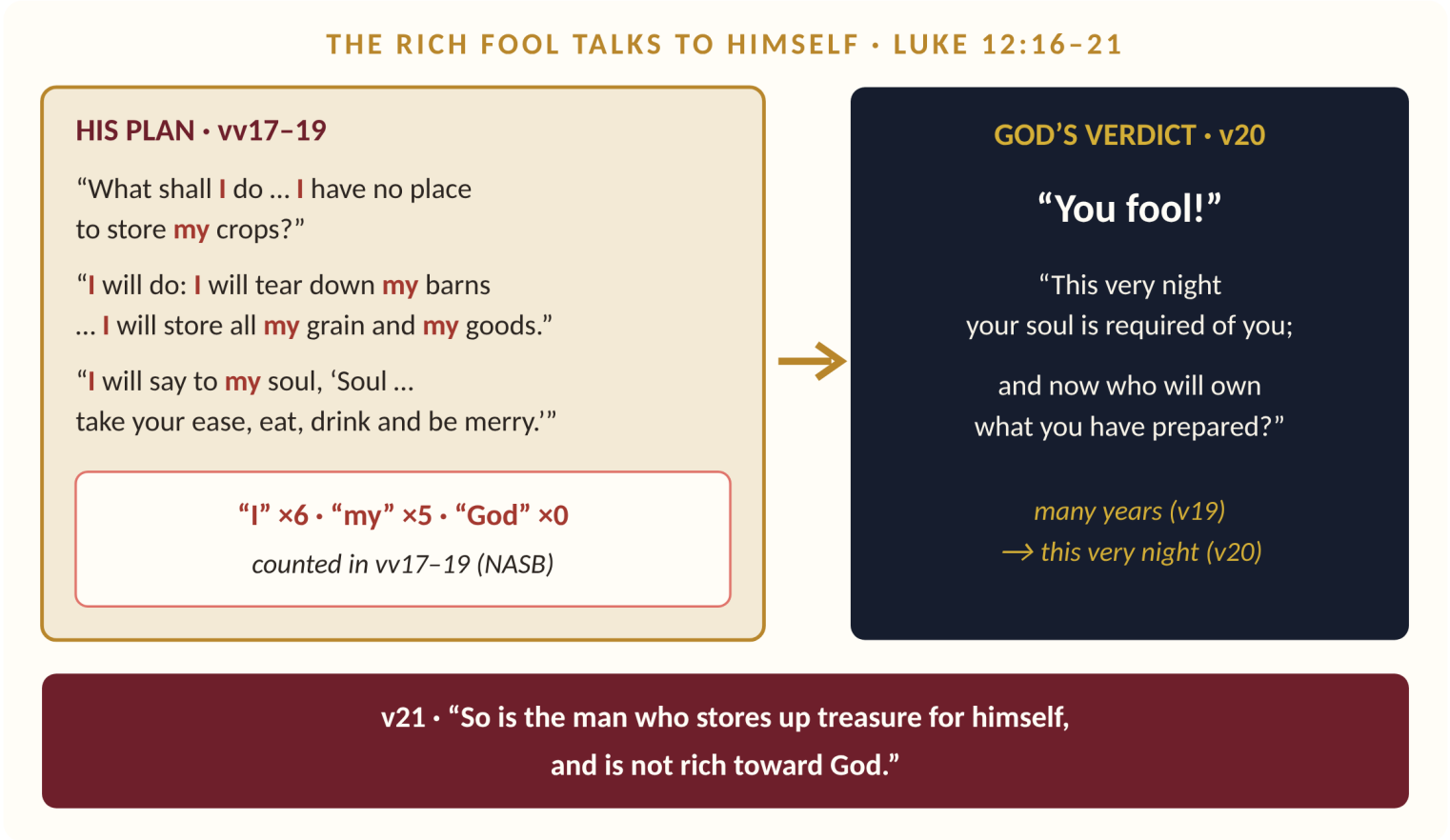
MATTHEW HENRY

Not his fruits but God's; worldlings will be called by their name.

πλεονεξία
PLEONEXIA · "GREED"

From pleon, more, and echō, to have: the itch to have more.

The rich fool talks to himself



Count the words in red: the rich man says "I" six times and "my" five times and never mentions God — then God speaks once, and the "many years" become "this very night."

Seek His Kingdom

Ravens, lilies, a little flock, and treasure that does not wear out

LUKE 12:24

"Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!

DAVID GUZIK

Greed never has enough; worry fears it never will.

R.C. SPROUL

Eagerness is joy, anxiety is fear; seek the kingdom first.

C.H. SPURGEON

Care much to please God; even a little faith is real faith.

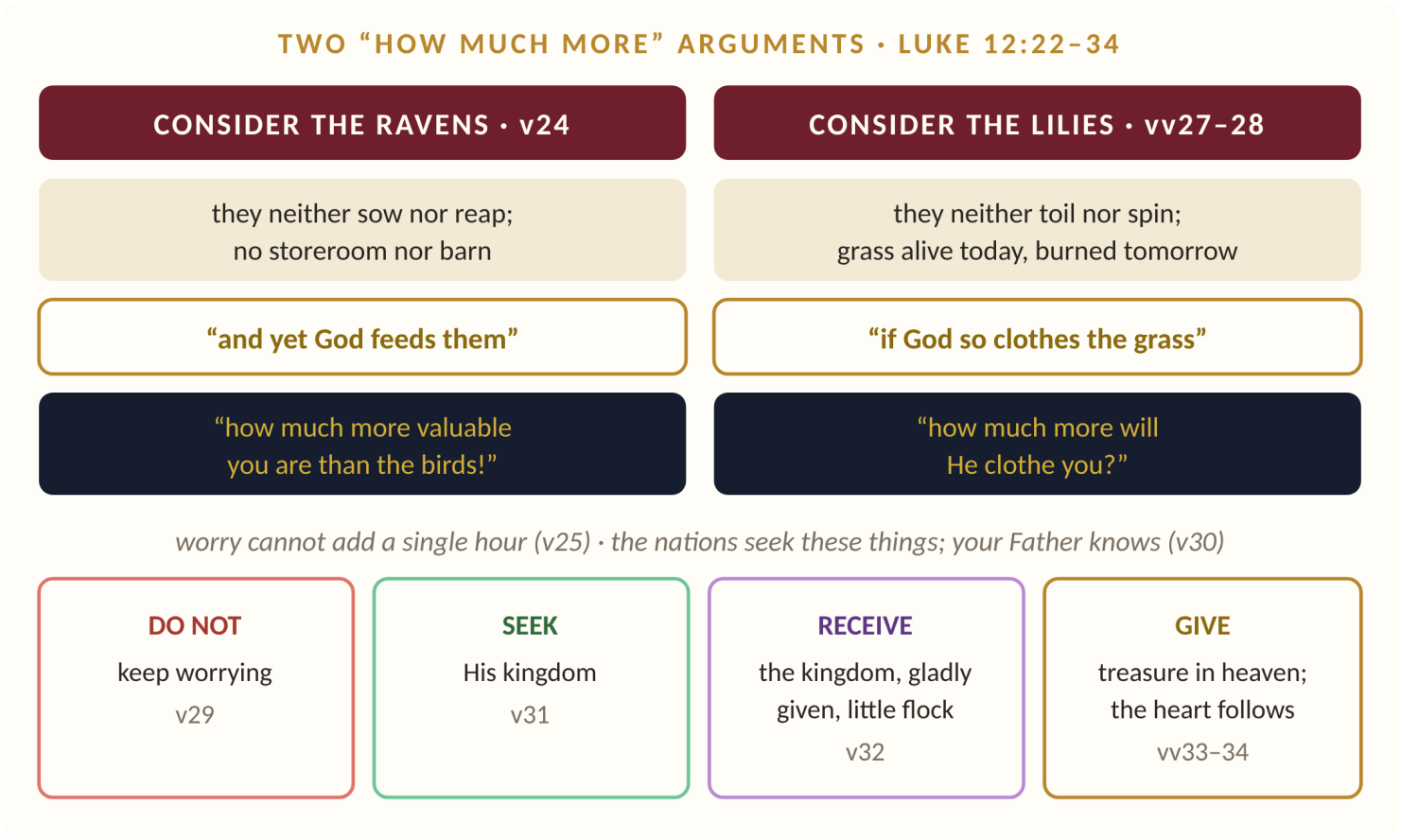
MATTHEW HENRY

Cares come from weak faith; sit loose to this world.

μετεωρίζομαι
METEŌRIZOMAI · "KEEP WORRYING"

Found only here (v. 29). Literally "to be lifted up into the air, held in suspense" — our word "meteor" comes from the same root.

Two “how much more” arguments



Read each column down from the creature to the Creator, then across the bottom: stop worrying, seek His kingdom, receive it as a gift, and put your treasure where your heart should be.

Be Ready

Lamps lit for the Master, a thief in the night, and a steward who must give account

LUKE 12:37

"Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them.

DAVID GUZIK

Ready or not, the master will come; readiness is love and self-control.

R.C. SPROUL

What a Master — He serves us; no neutrality with the Word.

C.H. SPURGEON

A wonderful passage; our Lord uses very strong words.

MATTHEW HENRY

Waiting for His appearing; knowledge aggravates sin.

περιζώννυμι
PERIZŌNNYMI · "GIRD"

To gird around, to tie up the long robe with a belt so a man can run or work.

When the Master comes



Each row pairs what the master finds with what follows; the outcome depends on readiness, faithfulness and how much the servant knew.

Fire, Division, and This Present Time

A baptism to undergo, a divided household, and a debt to settle on the way

LUKE 12:49

"I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled!

DAVID GUZIK

Immersed in agony; division may be the price; settle now.

R.C. SPROUL

Real fire, real judgment; Christ divides; do not wait.

MATTHEW HENRY

No peace promised on earth; now is the accepted time.

βάπτισμα · συνέχομαι
BAPTISMA · SYNECHOMAI

Baptisma is an immersion.

What to carry from this chapter

1

A mask cannot survive the light.

Hypocrisy is an actor's word (hypokrisis).

2

The fear that ends all fears.

Fear the One who can cast into hell (v5) — the same God who forgets no sparrow and numbers every hair (vv6–7).

3

Worried about the unforgivable sin?

Sproul: "I do not believe any Christian ever does or ever will commit the unforgiven sin."

4

Greed wears a halo.

The man asked for a fair share of an inheritance.

More to carry

5

Six I's, five my's, no God.

The rich man's monologue (vv17–19) never mentions God.

6

Suspended in midair.

Meteōrizomai (v29), found only here, pictures a mind hanging between hope and dread.

7

The Father gives the kingdom gladly.

"Chosen gladly" (v32) is eudokeō, the word the Father spoke over Jesus at His baptism (3:22).

8

The Master puts on the apron.

The servants gird themselves to wait (v35); the master girds himself to serve them (v37).

Talk it through

1. Where am I wearing a mask — saying one thing in public and another in the “inner rooms” — and what would it cost to take it off?

2. Whose opinion do I fear most right now? How does Jesus’ word about sparrows and numbered hairs change that fear?

3. If God said “this very night” to me, what have I prepared, and whose would it be? Where am I rich toward myself and poor toward God?

4. What do I worry about most, and what would it look like to “seek His kingdom” in that very area this week?

5. Look at my bank statement and my calendar. Where is my treasure — and so where is my heart?

CLOSING

Luke 12 asks a man what he fears, what he owns, what keeps him up at night, and what he will be doing when the Master comes. Jesus answers with a Father who forgets no sparrow and gladly gives the kingdom, and a Master who will put on an apron and serve His ready servants. Fear Him, trust Him, give freely, keep your lamp lit — and settle with God while you are still on the way.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the Luke study page.