

R 2

these passages, "What do these passages mean? Exactly what can we gather from them?" We have thus far in this class looked at passages to see just what we can get from the passage, what is definite and what are the possibilities, and we sometimes have taken a general subject and said, "What do we find in general about this?" I think the latter is good, too, at times, but should be carefully recognized that it is what we are doing. I think the vital foundation of it all is, exactly what is in the passage? So I would like to have us turn to the passage in Luke 12 and see just what, if anything, does this passage teach us? Is this passage giving something that is meant to apply directly to us? Is it giving something that applies directly to the apostles? Is it giving something that applies only to people of a time long after the apostles? Just what is the application of this passage in Luke 12 over in the latter part of the chapter? Now, let us look at this Luke 12 in general. In this Luke 12 who is He talking to? Is He giving us simply things that are of interest to one generation, or is He giving things that were of interest to people right at his own time? Would anybody say that Luke 12 here is specifically dealing with one restricted period of time or is it speaking that is vital for the Church in all ages?

R 3

It is certainly very similar to the sermon on the Mount, yes, and surely now when He says in verse 8, "Whoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God," He is referring particularly to people in time of tribulation but it certainly applies just as much to people at any time, because, after all, tribulation is a comparative matter and the strange thing is that there are many of us, probably right in this room, who would stand up and be tortured for the sake of Christ and would refuse to deny our Lord when it meant terrific suffering, who, nevertheless would avoid making a testimony to Him for fear of ridicule, and