

Be On Guard

Luke 12:13-34

This morning we will continue on in **Luke chapter 12**. Jesus warned his disciples to avoid greed when they had an abundance of possessions and worry when they were fearful that they would not have enough. **Jesus taught that an effective disciple has to be free from greed and worry.**

A Question About Inheritance

Luke 12:13–21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

As Jesus was teaching, a man from the crowd gained his attention and asked Jesus to make a ruling on a personal issue. The man wanted Jesus to tell his brother to divide his inheritance with him.

Rather than acting as a judge and deciding this dispute, Jesus took the role of a teacher and warned these two brothers about their real problem.

God Provides For His Creation

Luke 12:22-34

²² And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ 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! ²⁵ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶ If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies,

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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. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰ For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

³² "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ 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. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Jesus instructed his disciples not to be anxious or worried about having enough of what they need. When we consider how God meets the needs of His creatures in nature, it is foolish for us to be anxious about our needs being met.

A Practical Example

Acts 2:42–47

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Jesus's point is this, God loves you and knows your needs. So, don't be afraid and waste your time **collecting beyond what you need or being worried about having enough. Instead use your time, energy, and resources to seek His Kingdom!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Voice of the Martyrs - This month's action pack items are boxes of 1 Gallon resealable plastic bags (Zip Seal) and medical tape.

Spiritual Gifts Class - Starts May 16th during second service. Sign up on the patio today!

Men's Cornhole Tournament - May 22nd from 11 am to 3 pm. Sign up on the patio today!