

LIGHTING & THUNDER

WEEK 1 | SUNDAY, MARCH 5

LUKE 12:22-34

Sermon Notes

PRAYER CALENDAR

Monday | March 6

Read: Ephesians 3:20 "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us"

Pray: Father, we are expecting You to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask, think, or imagine according to Your power at work within us. We believe with child-like faith that Your Plans and Purposes will be fulfilled in our church and in our lives individually.

Tuesday | March 7

Read: 2 Corinthians 9:7-13 "You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, "They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever." For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ."

Pray: Jesus, we want to be like You in every way. Help us to sow generously in every area of our lives, that we may reap generously. Cause a spirit of generosity be shown in everything we do, because we serve a generous God. We ask that New Wine Church would be known as a church which is generous in time, talents, and treasures.

Wednesday | March 8

Read: Matthew 6:31-33 "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Pray: Holy Spirit, help us to see things from the Father's perspective. That what is important to Him will be important to us. Everything that we worry and fret about is in His Hands and we can trust Him to take care of us.

Thursday | March 9

Read: Ephesians 1:17-18 "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints"

Pray: Holy Spirit, grant us a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the deep and intimate knowledge of Him. That the eyes of our hearts would be flooded with light that we may know the calling You have for each one of us.

Friday | March 10

Read: Philippians 1:27 "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,"

Pray: Jesus, as we are one with You we are one with each other. One body! Give us a revelation on how vital unity is. We pray that our conduct would be pleasing to You, bringing honor and glory to Your Name. That we would stand firm, united in spirit and purpose contending side by side for the faith of the Gospel.

We live in a culture that has an abundance, yet we still struggle with anxiety, worrying that we will never have enough. In Luke 12:22-34, Jesus gives us a different way to look at things. He tells us how God takes care of the birds and the flowers. Neither has to worry about how their needs will be met because God provides for them. God cares for us even more, but sometimes our actions or lack of action show that we don't really believe God will provide. When we understand how generous our God is and the extravagant grace He has shown us in sending Jesus to die on the cross in our place, anxiety should leave and we should be filled with peace. When we truly understand that our generous God will provide for us, we will be able to let go of things and be more generous with others.

Discuss as a Family:

- Do you trust that God will provide for your needs, or do you worry that you won't have enough? A quick look around your house might help you answer this one. Do you have an abundance of food or clothes or other items?
- What is easy for you or your family to be generous with? What is hard for you or your family to be generous with?
- What are some obstacles you face with showing generosity with your time and money? What are some ways you are already generous with your time and money?

Challenge: This week, think of a way that your family can use your resources to help someone else. Trust that God will provide, and bless someone else with your generosity.

Prayer: Lord, help us trust in your goodness, knowing that you will take care of our needs. Instead of trying to take care of ourselves by buying more and more things, let us trust that you will provide so that we can give generously to others. Amen.

Luke 12:22-34 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. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 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! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? 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. 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! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 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 will your heart be also.

Small Group Questions

Thunder happens because lightning rips through the sky. Generosity flows because grace rips through fear of not having enough. Do I see money as a tool for God or a tool for me? Reflect on this as honestly as you can.

How does my giving compare to other financial investments I make on a recurring basis? (cell phone bill, mortgage payment, gym membership, entertainment)

People were the most important thing to Jesus. What can I do with my money to bring heaven to earth in the lives of people?
