

“The Anxious and the Son of Man” Luke 12:22-34

Please Stand and Open your Bibles to Luke 12:13-21

I had you read that to remind us we are in the middle of one of many of the “Travel Discourses” found in Luke 9-19. Chapter twelve is a very long one that deals with many Misconceived Perceptions. What do I mean by that? Jesus deals with these by giving us various warning that started with this:

Luke 12:1

In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."

That leaven is the doctrine they taught as we mentioned a couple weeks ago. What are some of the Misconceived Perceptions we can have when we are infected by this leaven?

Pharisees Misconceived Perceptions:

Self-Righteousness

Pride

Legalism

Self-Esteem

Then we dealt with the second warning of a Misconceived Perception is fear of retribution by these folks:

Luke 12:4-5

“And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!”

This was dispelled by the knowledge that God cares for you more than you can imagine. How do I know this? Because you won't be a coward:

Luke 12:8-9

"Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God."

He then dispels that one by reminding us that our help comes from the Holy Spirit.

Then the fourth one we dealt with last time is:

Luke 12:15

And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Remember the guy who told Jesus (Did not ask!) to make his brother divide the inheritance?

Then we just read the parable of Rich Fool that had put his trust in things and not God. We left off with this statement:

Luke 12:21

"So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

The application to the last warning is to not be like that rich fool who only considered himself and not God.

So, the obvious thought is “Wait a minute, I have to survive, I got bills to pay!” or “You don’t know what I am going through to just get by!” Right before they have chance to say this Jesus starts right off by saying...

Luke 12:22

Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on."

The therefore is there to bring application to the parable. The man was worried about himself and his future more than God's will. His trust was in his money and not in God. But this leads me to the main point I want to bring up in this passage and that is worry and anxiety itself. I know there are many of you here today that struggle in this area and have allowed these feelings to rule your thoughts and emotions. Everything from past trauma to personal shortfalls have you concerned and worried about today and the future. Some of you are still dragging around your past baggage that you can't let go of. I can see it when the warfare comes. The enemy knows your weaknesses and uses these things to get you to look everywhere but God for help. Then fear, worry and anxiety take hold of your soul and steals your joy and peace. These new followers of His are hearing that the Pharisees have duped, lied and misled them and that they were to reject their teaching altogether. This of course would lead to excommunication, threats and loss of place in society. So, the natural reaction is to worry. "What do I do now?" "The leaders will take away my land!" "How will we survive?". Jesus foresees this and commands us to not worry.

“Come on Pastor, that’s easier said than done!” Really? Jesus puts into to context for us...

Luke 12:23-24

“...Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds?”

Don’t you understand that life is a lot more than just survival? That God created and saved you for a purpose. Do you really think He has brought you this far just to leave you hanging?

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Have you been so focused on yourself that you forgot what Jesus has done for you? He can save your soul but can’t help you pay your bills? He took away your sin problem, but He can’t solve your family issues? He suffered and died on a cross for you but can’t carry you through your fiery trial?

He now shows fallacy of worrying...

Luke 12:25

And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

A cubit is about a foot and a half. What is being said here is just as you have no control over how tall you will grow what good is worrying. Do you know that most of what we worry and get anxious about are things that are totally out of our control? I know for some of you this might be like ripping a Band-Aid off a wound. You don't want to hear it, but you know you have too. Jesus wants you to think before you react...

Luke 12:26

If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest?

If you have no control over the situation why is it ruling your mind, heart and emotions? Jesus is not trying to punish you; He wants you to trust Him. These are words of concern from a friend and not the commands of tyrant. Look at how He puts it...

Luke 12:27-28

Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothes the grass,

which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?

Just like the birds don't go around worrying about how or when they are going to eat, the lilies don't worry about the weather. Who takes care of creation? God! Who will take care of you?

Luke 12:29-30

"And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things."

Now this does not mean that we just sit at home and wait for the doorbell to ring. The birds go out and gather and so do we. The seeking here is that is your only purpose. You want to see a good picture what it looks like for the world to seek after these things? Go to Wall Street during trading hours. It is a madhouse of folks whose only concern are for temporal things. That's the idea here. God knows you need them and as you trust Him and go out to gather He will provide. So, what do we do?

Luke 12:31-32

“But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

What does this mean? Seek the things that are above. Seek spiritual things. And do not fear for that is what gives God pleasure. Next week we will see how to act while waiting for this kingdom to come but let's finish with this and then some application...

Luke 12:33-34

Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Now, He is not saying to go and sell everything you have but to get your priorities straight. This is a Hebrew idiom for go about your business and don't forget to be charitable. Why? Because it shows where your treasure is at. What you consider valuable will fill your heart. Wonder why your heart is full of worry and anxiety? What are you placing your value in? Yourself? The World? Your finances? Your Problems? Do you really have control of any of those things? There is something you do have control with and that is your relationship with God. He

commands you to not worry and be anxious. If you believe it than you can act on it. A couple of verses of application before we begin communion...

Proverbs 12:25

Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.

1 Peter 5:6-7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Colossians 3:1-4

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all

understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

I want you to think about a few things before we go. If David could take down a giant, If the walls of Jericho could fall down, If God can heal the sick and raise the dead, do you not think He can take away your worry and anxiety? Can He heal your broken heart and mind? I can stand here with authority and tell you yes, He can! Will you believe it?

Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Communion