

## **Some Warnings from Jesus: Part 1**

Luke 12.1–34

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • November 20, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2022

Scripture Reader and Reading: Billy Henshall – Luke 12.13–15

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg – No Suggestions

### **Prelude:**

#### **I. While we do not want life to be a list of nothing but the things to avoid,**

- A. it is still true
- B. that there are dangers in this life.
  - 1. If we do not pay attention,
  - 2. these dangers may destroy us.
    - a) Life is like driving a vehicle.
    - b) We have to learn of many dangers, but
      - (1) after we know fully the dangers,
      - (2) we can then enjoy the benefits of driving.

#### **II. If you**

- A. love God and
- B. love your neighbor,
  - 1. you shall avoid many dangers, but
  - 2. we still need to be made aware of specific dangers.

#### **III. That is what we will see Jesus do in Luke 12.**

### **Persuasion:**

#### **I. Luke 12.1–3 • Beware of Hypocrisy**

**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. 2 For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. 3 Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the**

**housetops.”**

A. People actually trampled one another to get to Jesus?

1. May the Lord hasten the day
2. when people will crowd into this auditorium and others
  - a) to hear the word of God.
  - b) It has happened before and it can again.

B. In that context of many following Jesus,

1. Jesus warned his disciples about hypocrisy.
2. Hypocrisy, putting on a different face from what you truly are,
  - a) presents many dangers,
  - b) not only turning away potential believers, but
    - (1) it will endanger your own soul.
    - (2) For you see,
      - (a) children hate hypocrisy,
      - (b) unbelievers hate hypocrisy, and
      - (c) God hates hypocrisy.

C. Therefore, Jesus said, Beware, for

1. if you are not aware,
2. it will not capture you without you realizing what has happened.

D. Beware of the leaven of the hypocrisy of the Pharisees.

1. Leaven starts small, but
2. in time permeates the loaf.
  - a) Hypocrisy will start out small in your life, but
  - b) if you do not stop it,
    - (1) it will fill your life.

- (2) You will delude yourself into believing
  - (a) that you are acceptable in the sight of God, but
  - (b) there will be a big surprise at the Judgment.

E. Furthermore, Jesus revealed in verses 2 and 3,

- 1. that hypocrisy will be revealed.
- 2. He did not necessarily mean only at the Judgment.
  - a) Truly, people will see it before then.
  - b) Shame will fill that person's life.

## II. Luke 12.4–9 • Beware of Fearing Man

**4 “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. 5 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! 6 Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. 8 Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. 9 But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.”**

A. Should we fear those who can kill us?

- 1. Jesus said, No.
- 2. Why should we not fear them?
  - a) He said that the only thing they can do is
  - b) kill the body.
    - (1) To us, that is reason enough to fear man.
    - (2) However, Jesus got us to take our focus off man and
      - (a) put it on God,
      - (b) which is true for everything in life.
        - i) The Lord stated why we should fear God.

- ii) God can kill too, and
  - (1) he can cast into hell.
  - (2) That means fearing God is
    - (a) scriptural and
    - (b) healthy.

B. However, in verses 6 and 7,

1. Jesus assured his disciples
  - a) of how much God cares for them and
  - b) of how well he knows them.
2. God notices every sparrow, and
  - a) knows the number of hairs on the heads
  - b) of each one of us!
3. Therefore, he assured them not to fear.
  - a) Yes, fear God, but
  - b) do not fear being lost, because
    - (1) God knew that they were not hypocrites.
    - (2) The hypocrite has everything to fear, but
      - (a) the sincere have nothing to fear.
      - (b) Instead of fear they have something wonderful to contemplate.

C. He promised

1. that if you confess his name before men
2. he will confess your name before the angels of God!
  - a) He also said the opposite is true:
    - (1) Deny him before men, and
    - (2) he will deny that person before the angels of God.
  - b) Whether we confess Jesus or not,

- (1) depends upon whether
- (2) we fear man or fear God.

### **III. Luke 12.10 • Beware of Rejecting the Holy Spirit**

**10 “And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven.”**

A. If someone denies Christ,

1. that person has set himself up for something very bad.
2. If you speak against Christ,
  - a) it can be forgiven,
  - b) provided of course that you repent.
    - (1) Just like when Peter denied Christ, but
    - (2) later he preach the name of Jesus boldly.

B. If someone denies Christ,

1. he may go a step further and
2. blaspheme the Holy Spirit.
  - a) If a person denies Christ,
  - b) there is still the work of the Holy Spirit
    - (1) to turn that person around, but
    - (2) if you reject the teaching of the Holy Spirit,
      - (a) which is what Scripture is,
      - (b) then God has nothing else to persuade you to repent.

### **IV. Luke 12.11–12 • Beware of Worrying about What You Will Say**

**11 “Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. 12 For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to**

say.”

A. Why would any of them be tempted to fear man and deny Christ?

1. Jesus then presented that their enemies
2. will bring them before synagogues, and other authorities.

B. They were not to worry about what to say.

1. The Holy Spirit,
  - a) the same one
  - b) that they might be tempted to blaspheme,
2. would help them during those times.

C. The idea was

1. that they were not alone.
2. We need to pray for wisdom so we know what to speak:

**If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**

**– James 1.5**

#### **V. Luke 12.13–21 • Beware of Covetousness**

**13 Then one from 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 an arbitrator over you?” 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.” 16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ 18 So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”’ 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ 21 So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”**

- A. While Jesus was preaching and teaching,
  - 1. someone interrupted him with a demand.
  - 2. He assumed correctly that Jesus knows everything.
    - a) However, like Martha who demanded Jesus
    - b) make her sister do some work,
      - (1) this man actually had a spiritual problem,
      - (2) which Jesus will address, because
        - (a) it was a greater problem
        - (b) than brothers fighting one another over an inheritance.
- B. Both of the brothers had a problem of covetousness.
  - 1. However, the other brother was not present,
  - 2. so Jesus addressed this brother.
- C. First, Jesus wanted to know who made him a judge or an arbitrator.
  - 1. This was not the job of Jesus.
  - 2. There were already others in place to handle problems such as this.
- D. Second, Jesus warned all the people
  - 1. about thinking that your life consists
  - 2. in how many possessions you have.
- E. Covetousness is very dangerous.
  - 1. We can make a god out of it:

**Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.**

**– Colossians 3.5**

- 2. It can destroy our lives:

**9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**

**– 1 Timothy 6.9–10**

3. We cannot base our lives on our possessions:

**5 Will you set your eyes on that which is not?  
For riches certainly make themselves wings;  
They fly away like an eagle toward heaven.**

**– Proverbs 23.5**

F. Covetousness is the root of so many inheritance disputes.

1. It shocks me to find out how many families have this problem.

a) I have learned of many families

b) where one sibling empties the accounts of a parent

(1) without telling his siblings or

(2) something similar.

2. Family members will have no communication with the family,

a) until the death of the parents,

b) then suddenly they show up.

## **VI. Luke 12.22–34 • Beware of Worrying about Your Life**

**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. 23 Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. 24 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? 25 And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 26 If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest? 27 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. 28 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? 29 And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. 30 For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. 31 But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. 32 Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 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. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."**

A. He who worries about his life does not believe God can take care of him.

B. God created us.

1. He created our world.

2. He created all the things that we need to live.

a) Has he suddenly gone powerless?

b) Has he suddenly lost the wisdom needed to fill our needs?

(1) If we answer, No,

(2) then why do we worry?

C. Some people worry, because

1. they think it shows that they care, but

2. it only shows

a) that you think God does not care, and so

b) you have to do his job.

D. In verse 31,

1. Jesus gave us a promise.

2. He told us to seek the kingdom of God, and

a) he will add the food, the clothing,

b) the things that we need.

(1) If I worry,

(2) I show that I believe he will not keep that promise!

E. God takes care of the ravens.

1. Does he lack the ability and resources

2. to help his people who are spreading his message?

F. God beautifies the lilies even more than he did Solomon, yet,

1. how long do the lilies or grass last?

2. Yet, we are forever.

a) Surely, God cares more about clothing and feeding us

b) than he does the ravens and the lilies and the grass.

(1) Therefore, Jesus taught

(2) that we should not worry about our lives.

G. He revealed in verse 28, “O you of little faith,”

1. that the issue is faith, or

2. a lack of faith.

H. Therefore, let us do our part in seeking the kingdom of God, and

1. Jesus promised

2. that God will take care of the rest.

a) Do not make possessions or anything of this earth,

b) even our basic necessities

(1) our focus, but

(2) let us build our treasure in the heavens.

### **Exhortation:**

#### **I. Know the dangers:**

A. Beware of Hypocrisy

B. Beware of Fearing Man

- C. Beware of Rejecting the Holy Spirit
- D. Beware of Worrying about What You Will Say
- E. Beware of Covetousness
- F. Beware of Worrying about Your Life

**II. Then, like driving a car,**

- A. you can travel about freely,
- B. enjoying going places,
  - 1. knowing that your chances of hurting yourself are almost zero.
  - 2. Just keep your eyes on the road, on Jesus.