

Sermon Notes | **with** - Luke 12

Big Idea: Having your mind focused on heaven changes how you live on earth.

Barriers to Following Jesus

Being afraid of people (v.1–12)

Trusting in self (v.13–34)

Being passive (v.35–59)

I. Being Afraid of People (v.1–12)

In the meantime, when so many **thousands** of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, "**Beware** of the **leaven** of the **Pharisees**, which is **hypocrisy**.² Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.⁴ "I tell you, my friends, **do not fear those who kill the body**, and after that have nothing more that they can do.⁵ But I will warn you whom to fear: **fear him** who, after he has killed, has **authority to cast into hell**. Yes, I tell you, fear him!⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God.⁷ Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. **Fear not**; you are of more value than many sparrows.⁸ "And I tell you, everyone who **acknowledges me** before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God,⁹ but the one who **denies me before men** will be denied before the angels of God.¹⁰ And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.¹¹ And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say,¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

Man cannot affect your eternity.

Man does not care for you how God does.

Fearing God is more appropriate.

II. Trusting in Self (v.13–34)

¹⁵ "...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**." 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**, 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 the Lord's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Prayer

"Father, you know what I need. I release what I cannot control. Teach me to seek your kingdom first and trust you with the rest."

III. Being Passive (v.35–59)

³⁵ "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,³⁶ and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants ...³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

... ⁴⁹ "I came to **cast fire** on the earth...

⁵⁴ ... "When you see a **cloud rising** in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming'...

⁵⁸ ... make an effort to **settle with him** on the way...

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Discussion Questions | **with** - Luke 12

Read Luke 12:1–12

- Share a time when the fear of people has been an obstacle in your walk with Christ.
- What does it mean to fear God?
- How can you grow this week in fearing God?

Read Luke 12:13–34

- Share a time when a desire to control finances became an obstacle in your walk with Christ.
- How can you grow in trusting God's provision?

Read Luke 12:35–48

- How has passivity been an obstacle in your walk with Christ?
- How can you grow in staying ready and engaged in the Lord's kingdom?

Read Luke 12:49–59

- What stands out to you in this passage, and what is God speaking to you through it?