

Following the King

Studies in Luke's Gospel

Luke 12:1-48

Discussion starters

1. What are some things that people commonly 'fear'¹ in life? What are you fearful of?

AND / OR

2. What does real trust in God look like in a person's life?

Review

3. What did you learn from our study last week (Luke 10:25 – 11:13) about what it means to live as a follower of Jesus?
4. Does anyone have any questions or comments about the sermon based on today's passage?

Read Luke 12:1-48

Fear not man, fear God (12:1-12)

5. What kind of fear is on view in vv 4-12?
6. Obviously not all kinds of fear are wrong. What does Jesus suggest is the right kind of fear?
7. Why shouldn't God's people fear?
8. It's unlikely that any of us will ever face the kind of opposition Jesus is talking about in these verses. In what sense then are Jesus' words of relevance to us, in our circumstances?

Fear not for money, trust God (12:13-34)

Re-read Luke 12:13-34

9. What kind of 'fear' (worry, anxiety) is on view in these verses? ²
10. The rich man in Jesus' story (vv 16-20) appears to illustrate a misguided reliance upon wealth as a form of security. Is there any sense in which wealth provides security? Why is reliance upon wealth misguided?

¹ In the passage we'll look at today anxiety and worry are close cousins of fear. Include these in your thinking.

² Note the 'Therefore' in 12:22. Jesus' words in vv 22 and following draw some conclusion from the parable he told about the rich man who stored up wealth for himself.

Study 03

11. In his sermon Jaime spoke of the modern condition of 'affluenza'.³ As you observe the world around you what evidence do you see of this 'condition'? How would you critique this 'condition' using Jesus' teaching in this passage?
12. This passage applies to rich and poor alike. How so? What are the differences in application, if any?
13. What, according to Jesus, is the alternative to trusting in material wealth?
14. Jesus identifies a number of reasons **why** we shouldn't worry about the material things of life. What are they? See vv 23, 24, 25.
15. Chasing after the material things of life is a pagan obsession (v 30). What ought to be the 'obsession' of Jesus' disciples?
16. What do you think it means to 'seek the kingdom' (v 31)? Provide some concrete examples.
17. In what sense are vv 32-34 a fitting conclusion to this whole section?

Conclusion

- Is there a verse, or idea, that has particularly stuck in your mind tonight? Take a moment to share this.

Pray it in

- Spend a few minutes in quiet prayer & reflection. Ask yourself the following questions:
 - What is worrying me right now?
 - Am I suffering from a bout of affluenza?
 - What do I truly treasure in life?
 - How will I follow Jesus differently as a result of tonight's discussion?
- Two or three people could take the opportunity of praying out loud, asking God to help us all become the disciples He has called us to be.

³ The unhealthy preoccupation of many individuals, politicians, governments & corporations with the accumulation of wealth, possessions & the desire for material well-being. Affluenza thrives on the conviction that material prosperity leads to well-being & genuine happiness. In its worst forms affluenza causes people to measure their self-worth by their affluence. In other words, it causes people to believe that life **does** consist in the abundance of possessions (Luke 12:15).