

Let's Worship God

3rd-8th December 2018

Luke



THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Monday - Luke 12:22-31 - Worry

Christ gives us four arguments as to why we should not worry. First, if the Maker of all things takes such care of animals, we shouldn't think that He will let His spiritual children starve. Second, if God every year provides for the flowers exactly what they need, we shouldn't doubt His power and willingness to do the same for us. Third, a Christian should be ashamed of worrying like an unbeliever. An unbeliever has no close, loving relationship with God - he doesn't really know or understand anything about God. But we know better, and our faith should put us above worrying. Finally, Christ reminds us of God's perfect knowledge. God knows all things - He knows exactly what we need, and He has all power to take care of us.

Worry and anxiety is common among Christians; it destroys their usefulness and diminishes their inward peace. But as Christ has made clear, it is completely unnecessary. On the other hand, nothing glorifies God so much as a cheerful spirit in the midst of troubles. Faith and faith alone produces this cheerful spirit that even the unbeliever can see. The man who can truthfully say, "The Lord is my shepherd," will be able to add, "I shall not want."

Christ also commands us to seek the kingdom of God. What does this mean? It means we aren't to focus on the things of this world, living as if we only have a body. We are to put the priority on our souls and our relationship with God. Our relationship with the Lord, our place in His kingdom, should be the focus of our lives. If we do this, Christ promises that all will be given to us. The man who seeks first God's kingdom shall never lack anything that is for his good. He may not be as healthy or as rich as others, but he will always have everything he needs for his good.

Questions

1. What are Jesus' four arguments against worry?
2. How can we seek the kingdom of God?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would rest in God in time of trouble.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Luke 12:34

Praise: Psalm 124 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Tuesday - Luke 12:32-40 - Treasure in Heaven

Our Lord Jesus knows the hearts of His people. He knows that we are full of fears of every description. But He answers these fears with a promise. It is our Father's pleasure to give us the kingdom. We may be a "little flock" surrounded by unbelievers, but we have a glorious kingdom awaiting us. We may be mocked, criticised, or judged by others, but we have the tender love of God our Father who sees us as His dear children in Christ. If we are members of Christ's flock, we do not need to be afraid. We are given great and tremendous promises. Those who are with us are greater than those who are against us.

Christ again emphasises our need to focus on heaven, seeking our treasure there, not on earth. We are to give up and get rid of anything that stands between us and the Lord; we are to give ourselves to service of God and others; and we are to make sure that our names are in the book of life - that we are hoping to get to heaven not because of anything we've done but because of what Christ has done for us. Where is your treasure? What do you have that you couldn't live without? What do you love most?

Our Lord tells us that we should be like employees waiting for the return of their boss, expecting it at any moment, and careful to be found doing their job. We should be doing nothing that we wouldn't want Christ to find us doing. We should be longing for Christ's return. Do you want Christ to return today? Or would you be happier if He were to wait a few years before returning? What do you love most?

Questions

1. Why does Christ tell us not to be afraid?
2. How are we to focus on heaven?
3. What should we be longing for?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that our Father has given us His kingdom.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Luke 12:34

Praise: Psalm 125 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Wednesday - Luke 12:41-48 - Practice What You Preach

Christianity is not a religion of the head only - it is a religion of action. Christians are to be doing good. Our Lord Jesus Christ is comparing His disciples to employees awaiting the return of their boss, each with their own work to do during His absence. They are to be found working for Him when He returns. While this warning and command refers especially to ministers of the Gospel and their job of preaching God's Word, the lesson also applies to all Christians. Our faith is to be practical. The point here is not what a man should do to be saved, - but what ought a saved man to do? He should be serving Christ and working for His Kingdom by going about doing good, by putting other people before ourselves, by obeying the commands of God, and by putting Christ first in our lives. Those whose faith consists in just talking are warned here. Those who are hypocrites, who talk about service of Christ and love for His people, but can't be bothered to worship Him on the Lord's Day, to speak of Him to others, to assist in the work of the church - those who don't practice what they preach, will be judged and judged severely. Let us live in such a way that when Christ finds us, we are doing His work His way.

Christ also warns us that the more we know, the more we will be called to answer for. We have great privileges as Christians in Britain - we have freedom to worship on the Lord's Day, we own Bibles, many of us have heard the Word of God preached for years and know most Bible stories, and we can explain how to get to heaven. If we reject Christ and refuse to put our faith in Him, He warns us that our judgement will be far more severe than that of some pagan living in the heart of Africa who has never heard of Christ.

Questions

1. What is our job once we are saved?
2. Why can we be held more accountable?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would put our faith into action in our lives.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Luke 12:34

Praise: Psalm 126 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Thursday - Luke 12:49-53 - Peace

Christ's heart is set on finishing the work He came into the world to do. He knows what is ahead of Him. He isn't deceived as to the difficulty and pain of the work. Jesus is going to His death with His eyes wide open. He knows that there will be suffering, wounding, agony, blood, grief, and death. But none of this knowledge sways Him. He is ready and willing to endure all things in order to provide salvation for His people.

We need to remember that Christ's sufferings on our behalf are all endured willingly and voluntarily. He doesn't die on the cross because He is trapped with no way of escape. The suffering He endures on earth isn't unavoidable. At any moment, He can reveal His glory and destroy His enemies. But He doesn't. He lives and dies for us because He loves us and delights to do God's will. He is just as willing and ready today to forgive His people and to give them eternal life.

The Gospel does bring peace to those who believe in Christ and find their sins forgiven. They become no longer God's enemies, but His children. But wherever there are unbelievers, hardened in their hearts against God, the very message of peace becomes the cause of division. These people hate the Gospel and those who preach it and believe in it. It makes them feel guilty; it reminds them of their sin and their need of a Saviour and Lord. The moment an unbeliever's sins are attacked or his conscience pricked, the uneasy peace will be dissolved. We should perhaps be concerned if unbelievers are too comfortable around us - if we are not a reminder to them of the existence of God and their need to be in a right relationship with them, we have suppressed the truth of the Gospel for a false peace.

Questions

1. Was Jesus' death voluntary? Why?
2. Why can there be no true peace between unbelievers and Christians?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for Christ's death on the cross.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Luke 12:34

Praise: Psalm 127 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Friday - Luke 12:54-59 - Signs of the Times

The Jews of Jesus' day are blind to what is going on around them. They do not see the hand of God in the work of John the Baptist or the miracles of Christ. They ignore the teaching and prophecy of God's Word about the coming Messiah. We must beware that we do not repeat their mistake. Far too often when events happen in our world we fail to see the hand of God in them. An AIDS epidemic sweeping across a continent is seen as a tragic unreasonable event. Empty churches in countries that once promised to follow the Lord are viewed as a mystery. Thousands in other countries put their faith in Christ even though to do so means persecution, imprisonment, and possibly death, and this too is called unexplainable. We are in grave danger of repeating the mistakes of the Jews - of failing to read the signs of the times. God's hand is involved in all these events. His Word teaches us why these things happen, and it is our job as Christians to use His Word as our guide to what is happening around us.

Christ also emphasises the importance of seeking reconciliation with God before it is too late. We are compared to a man on his way to a magistrate with an adversary because of a dispute. Like this man, we are on our way to the presence of a Judge. We have an adversary - God's holy law stands against us, and its demands must be satisfied. Like this man, we must be diligent to get our case settled before it comes to the Judge. We must seek pardon and forgiveness before we die. If we let the opportunity pass, the judgement will go against us, and we will be cast into the prison of Hell. Our time is running out.

Questions

1. How should we interpret events around us?
2. What does the Bible teach us about current events?
3. Why do we need to be reconciled to God?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of your family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Luke 12:34

Praise: Psalm 128 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Saturday - Luke 13:1-5 - Repentance

People are always far more ready to talk about someone else's death than their own. The Jews of Jesus' day are no different. They are quite excited to tell Christ of this tragedy, but He wisely turns the situation around to confront them with their own future death. When it comes to themselves, unbelievers do not want to discuss death or life beyond the grave. They only will talk about judgement in generalities never specifics. But Christians should always be ready to confront unbelievers with their own personal danger. Christians themselves should be examining their own hearts and lives when these things happen. If they hear of a sudden death, they should ask themselves whether they would have been ready to die. If they hear of a terrible sin or crime, they should make sure their own sins are forgiven and they should remind themselves that God's grace has kept them from worse sin. We should never forget to look into our own lives when we hear of sin in others.

Christ emphasises the need of repentance to these Jews. What is repentance? It begins with knowing what sin is and that you are a sinner. It goes on to make you sorry for your sin. It leads you to confess your sin before God. It becomes obvious to others when you break away from and get rid of that sin in your life. It produces a habit of hating all sin. Most of all, it is inseparably connected with a living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance like this is the characteristic of all true Christians. Without repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ, no man can be saved. Have you repented of your sin and turned in faith towards Christ?

Questions

1. Why do people not want to talk about their own death?
2. What is repentance?
3. Why is it necessary?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Luke 12:34

Praise: Psalm 129 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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