**​Be Ready, Not Anxious**

Hope Chapel Honolulu

Luke 12:1-59

32 “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

(Luke 12:32-34, ESV)

**Introduction**

When reading the Gospels it can be difficult to maintain a good sense of time. While helpful to moderns like us who have become increasingly dependent upon technology, the chapter divisions—originally added to the text to aid in the printing of the Bible—can further complicate this problem. Some chapters seem to clearly account for the memorable events and conversations of a single day; other chapters seem to be organized in a manner foreign and ancient in comparison to what we’re accustomed to. As important as context can be, we sometimes have to focus upon who’s speaking and what’s really being said because all knowledge is relational. Perhaps Luke 12 is that kind of chapter, too.

**1. Fearing and trusting in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Luke 12:1-12)**

 a) “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy” (Luke 12:1).

 b) What does it mean to fear God and to trust in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

**2. Seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness. (Luke 12:13-34)**

 a) The acquisition of material wealth and comfort does not make us rich toward God.

 b) What does it mean to prioritize the kingdom of God and its righteousness (Matthew 6:33)?

**3. Are you ready for the return of Christ? (Luke 12:35-59)**

 a) Christ’s warning to be ready for His return is not just for unbelievers, but for believers, too.

 b) Christ’s admonition about faithfulness in the face of division, timing and coming judgment.

**Conclusion**

Depending upon your personality and experience, you might be someone who finds comfort and control in knowing everything before making a decision or taking action. However, increasingly since Peter’s earlier confession of Jesus as the Christ of God (Luke 9:20), the following becomes clear: since Christ is speaking of things of which the disciples had little understanding and even less control, they would have to learn to trust Him. Perhaps that’s not so different from our own situation. For as Christ speaks of things that might seem strange to your ears, He speaks of that which He has seen, heard, knows and brings into being.

**For our prayerful study, discussion and application:**

1) Read Luke 12:15-31. What does it mean for us to become rich towards God?

2) Read Luke 12:35-48. What does Christ’s teaching here mean to you and how will you respond?

3) What are the Word and Spirit of God showing and telling you about your priorities and lifestyle?

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