

Luke Week Thirty-three Bible Reading Notes

1. Take a few minutes to catch up and pray that God would bless you through the reading of His word.
2. Read Luke 12:1-12

[12:1] 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. [3] Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.

[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.”

3. Observation

- a. About what does Jesus warn his disciples (v. 1)?

- b. What is the leaven of the Pharisees (v. 1)? What does Jesus say will happen to the secret things in our lives (v. 2-3)?
 - c. Who shouldn't we fear (v. 4)? Why shouldn't we fear them?
 - d. Who should we fear (v. 5)?
 - i. Why (v. 5)?
 - ii. Why should we not be afraid (v. 6-7)?
 - e. What promise does Jesus make in v. 8?
 - i. What warning does he give (v. 9)?
 - ii. What sin will be forgiven (v. 10)? What will not be forgiven (v. 11)?
 - iii. What does Jesus tell them not to do when they are brought before the authorities (v. 11)? Why shouldn't they do that (v. 12)?
4. Interpretation:
- a. How is hypocrisy like leaven (or yeast)?
 - b. When will the things in v. 2-3 come to light?
 - c. What does it mean to "fear" God? How can we "fear God" (v. 5) and also "fear not" (v. 7)?
 - d. What does it mean to "acknowledge" or "deny" Jesus before men (v. 8-9)? How does that idea connect to v. 4?
 - e. What is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (v. 10)? Is Jesus saying that there is a sin that his (coming) death on the cross cannot atone for?
5. Application
- a. Why are we tempted to fear other people more than God?
 - i. What does "fear of man" look like in your life?
 - ii. What would it mean to replace that with the fear of God?
 - iii. How can you cultivate that kind of good fear?
 - b. How does God's intimate knowledge of our lives (v. 6-7) help us to be bold in acknowledging Christ before others (v. 11-12)?
6. Share prayer requests and pray for each other.