

Heart, Mind, & Soul

Jesus is on the move and attempting to change hearts. Today, we consider false teaching, misplaced fear, courage, broken priorities, and earthly anxiety. Wow - that's a lot! The discussion goes quickly, but its application will last a lifetime if we pay attention to Jesus!

Note: I've enjoyed and recommend Mark E. Moore's "The Chronological Life of Christ." Some of my comments can be found in his material by coincidence (he's not the only one making such observations articulated in his material), and other times, I've leaned on his accurate and helpful observations. He's done an excellent job making 1st-century culture and practices available.

No events occurred between last week's lesson and today.

Beware (Luke 12:1-12)

- *Harmonizing and/or explaining the text:*

- Matthew and Mark have similar teachings, so Jesus seemingly repeated these lessons in Judea.
- The last time Jesus warned of the leaven of the Pharisees, the disciples didn't understand, and He rebuked them for it.
- The Pharisees attempt to hide their intentions, but it won't work. The disciples need to take note. God knows, and it will be revealed.
- Jesus encourages them to put their reality into perspective. I've found it helpful to consider the worst-case scenario. Worse case is they kill you? No, the worst case is God casts you into hell. However, you're precious to God.
- Do not shrink back. Stay the course. God will give you the words when you're before rulers and authorities.

The Rich Fool (13-21)

- *Harmonizing and/or explaining the text:*

- There were proper channels to handle such a dispute, but Jesus wasn't the guy. He wouldn't allow him to distract His true ministry, which was turning the hearts of man. So, Jesus did what He's known for: get to the heart of the problem.
- Jesus seems to judge the man's heart and warns him. The rich fool represents the man. He's missing the point, and it ends disastrously.

Don't Worry (22-34)

- *Harmonizing and/or explaining the text:*

- It's about trusting God in the basics. He knows what you need and will provide.
- What is your worrying accomplishing? How much is in your control anyway? Be different than everyone else. Don't be a "practical atheist."
- Here's what most won't do: seek His kingdom. It's hard to get people off their worrying and talking about God. Funny how that works.
- God wants to give the kingdom. Such a revelation will take someone from worrying about what they may not have to give what they do. Such a person has the greatest treasure in the world: a pure heart.

Be Ready (35-48)

- *Harmonizing and/or explaining the text:*
 - This parable calls for action but also turns the table. We're ready to serve the Lord, but the Lord serves His servants at the end of the day! What grace, brethren!
 - But we'd better stay prepared. It's about consistency.
 - Another parable reminds Jesus' followers not to take the grace given to them for granted. Do not abuse the position.
 - Those who know better will experience a harsher judgment than those who don't.
 - God knows us for what we do when others aren't around. Let's take note.
 - Don't wait until the last minute. It's not a wise or successful approach. However, ignorance (running from truth) will not be excused (Romans 1:20).

Bringing Division (49-53)

- *Harmonizing and/or explaining the text:*
 - Jesus doesn't want to condemn, but there are realities. He's bringing truth before peace. There is no peace without truth.
 - We've got to figure out how serious we are about Jesus. We've got to ask, "Am I in or out?"

Exercising Wisdom (54-59)

- *Harmonizing and/or explaining the text:*
 - Jesus is warning the crowds. See, they are in a bad state and will experience the consequence of sin if they don't try to settle with their accuser.
 - It seems as though Jesus is warning about the ultimate punishment of God if they don't repent. Perhaps Jesus is the accuser in this illustration?

Final Thoughts:

- First: Jesus didn't instruct His disciples to walk a road He wasn't capable or willing to travel down first.
- Second: Jesus can liberate us in the very areas that we fear. Materialism? Sale and give - see what God can do with that. Indicators of materialism? (1) Too much worry. (2) Wanting more. (3) Forgetting God. See Proverbs 30:7-9.
- Third: We've got to think more deeply. We've got to look for the spiritual meaning. This doesn't happen by accident. So many have criticized leaders or the lack of wisdom they perceive is missing. Lots of complaining but no solutions. What wisdom will you offer?
 - Proverbs 20:5 The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.
 - Proverbs 18:4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.
 - Proverbs 4:1-7 Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight."