

“Fear Not! Yet, Fear!”

Luke 12:1-7 Sunday AM, November 23, 2025

Prelude – Scripture: Luke 12:1-7 (NASB95) Under these circumstances, after so many thousands of people had gathered together that they were stepping on one another, He began saying to His disciples first of all, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. 2 “But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. 3 “Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops. 4 “I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. 5 “But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One 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 cents? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 “Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

Jesus said light is to be seen not hidden. But what IS light? Remember? 35 “. . . watch out that the light in you is not darkness. If we don’t agree with God on light, then what we live by and look for is darkness. Jesus lack of ceremonially washing His hands created a stir, but Jesus used this as an opportunity to show supposed God-fearers that despite their outward piety, they were full of self-righteousness and greed, carelessly harming people as they increased burdens and hid God’s words under misguided wisdom. Instead of yielding to Jesus’ words of correction, these religious leaders refused to listen and plotted to silence Jesus. On the other hand, so many thousands of people had gathered together that they were stepping on one another, all to hear Jesus. While this is good, Jesus knew that listening, evening following wasn’t enough to guarantee a clean inside and He began saying to His disciples . . . “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. You might “see through” the Pharisees, be disgusted with them, and still be like them. You must look deep within for there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. 3 “Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops. The right response to this sober reminder is to allow the depths of your heart to be exposed. Those who have trusted God’s Word for eternal salvation rejoice in God’s penetrating eye. Remember Psalm 139—6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it. 17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You. Church, praise God and rejoice in His personal care for His own!

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Come People of the Risen King**

Whom do you fear? Those who might harm you, sit in judgment over you or reject you? What keeps others from seeing more of you? Jesus spoke to His disciples, and by extension, to us, redirecting our focus. 4 “I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. 5 “But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him! You who claim Jesus as Redeemer, what happens when you stand before Him as Judge? Remember I John. In Him is NO DARKNESS at all. Feel the weight of the holiness of God.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Day of Judgment, Day of Wonders *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: Christ Be Praised!**

Scripture: Psalm 34:1–22 (NASB95) I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My soul will make its boast in the LORD; The humble will hear it and rejoice. 3 O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. 4 I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears. 5 They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces will never be ashamed. 6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him And saved him out of all his troubles. 7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them. 8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! 9 O fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no want. 10 The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing. 11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. 12 Who is the man who desires life And loves length of days that he may see good? 13 Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit. 14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. 15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous And His ears are open to their cry. 16 The face of the LORD is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth. 17 The righteous cry, and the LORD hears And delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit. 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all. 20 He keeps all his bones, Not one of them is broken. 21 Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous will be condemned. 22 The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

Offering: *Doxology:

Do NOT forget the cutting, sobering messages from the last few weeks. It continues for the first part of our passage today. From this vantage point we can hear the gracious care and mercy of God to us described both at the end of our passage today and in the praise of the psalmist we just heard read. I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My soul will make its boast in the LORD; The humble will hear it and rejoice. 3 O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. 4 I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears. 6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him And saved him out of all his troubles. 7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them. 8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! Sing these truths to yourself, to those around you, and to our God!

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Though Troubles Assail Us**

You may be seated. O fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no want. I haven’t seen it in my life. Well, do you fear Him? I did, but don’t think I can. Who is this God whom you say you fear or whom you used to fear? Listen carefully today as we hear not only WHY we should fear God—when we should be justly terrified of Him AND when and why we should NEVER be afraid when we acknowledge God’s rightful place. 6 “Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 “Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows. Do you even notice the sparrows? What about when you DON’T notice them, what are they doing and who cares for them? What does our passage say? As Pastor Jahn prepares to preach, get the words of this hymn deep in your heart and let it carry this passage with you as you leave.

***Hymn #289 (Red): Does Jesus Care?**

Message: “Fear Not! Yet, Fear!” Luke 12:1-7

***Hymn #345: Blessed Assurance *Prayer**