

“Your Focus for Life”

Luke 12:22-34 Sunday AM, December 21, 2025

Prelude – Scripture: Luke 12:15-34^(NASB95)” Then He said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.” 16 And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man was very productive. 17 “And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ 18 “Then he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 ‘And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.’” 20 “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’ 21 “So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” 22 And He said to His disciples, “For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. 23 “For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24 “Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! 25 “And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life’s span? 26 “If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters? 27 “Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. 28 “But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You men of little faith! 29 “And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. 30 “For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. 31 “But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. 32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. 33 “Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. 34 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Watch that the light in you is not darkness. Meaning? Perhaps you found it obvious when I exposed it in the Pharisees—in many ways, their outside was truly good. However, the inside another story. Watch out, disciples, that leaven in the Pharisees may look attractive OR it may look easy to avoid, but it is neither. Think seriously about why you do what you do and for whom do you live? Of what are you afraid? **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!!** This doesn’t sound too encouraging, and yet to fear Him is also to remember that the One who notices each sparrow also knows each hair on your head. God is present, watching and working! You are not unnoticed! Confess My name before men and I will confess your name before the angels of God. And why wouldn’t you confess One so great and good? Because even when you acknowledge His mercy and care, there are moments when it will not seem advantageous to identify with Christ. Here we are given another warning. **He who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.** Furthermore, don’t fight against/dishonor the Holy Spirit, the only One who opens your eyes to the infinite worth of right relationship with God and who gives the courage, the words, and the way to confess His name even under great hardship. Last week, we were warned to beware, to be on guard against greed—yes, in all its forms, but specifically the subtle form of being industrious and stewarding resources in a way that left you spiritually bankrupt. Be rich toward God! As we begin this morning, sing, ponder, and praise God for the riches we have been given through the incarnation.

*Hymn #151: Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Yes, great warnings and redirected fear, but all geared toward what is gained when rich toward God. **“For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. 23 “For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.** Lingered doubts about letting your worries go? **“And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life’s span? 26 “If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters?** Trust the One who CAN care for these things. Proof, look at the ravens—He feeds them. Look at the lilies—He clothes them! You are worth more than them. How much more will He provide for you, **You men of little faith!** Do you think it was just then God was present—a manger, then teaching, healing for some? No. Sing the wonders of God’s eternal care seen through the incarnation.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Before the Skies *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: Nativity Canon Scripture: Revelation 21:1–14,

22-27 ^(NASB95) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” 5 And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.” 6 Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. 7 “He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. 8 “But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” 9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. 12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. 13 There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 21 I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. 25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; 26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Offering: *Doxology:

Did you hear the kingdom of God described? Does it hold your attention? **“Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”** What would this look like? Can I be a Part? **32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.** This is what we celebrate at Christmas. Behold the King of THAT kingdom coming as a baby to our world and worship!

*Hymn #131: Angels from the Realms of Glory

You may be seated. Does the eternal kingdom, God’s kingdom hold your attention? No for some, but others might say, Yes, but I have a hard time getting things HERE out of my head—what will I eat/drink? How do I keep my body from falling apart? My dreams/ joys fading—my past speaks loudly. Jesus says today, that’s what THEY sound like **30 “For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. 31 “But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you.** Seek My kingdom first. Why? Because it will last forever. And by submitting to the King of that kingdom, you submit to the One who oversees THIS kingdom as well. How does this live? Instead of hoarding, pursuing your own goals, or shriveling up by withholding yourself and your abilities from others around you, act in ways that show you are laying up treasures in heaven. Live under God, trusting His good provision, first through Jesus for reconciliation to God, then for life lived for eternal reward. Ponder this song and these thoughts as Pastor preaches. So what will be your answer?

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Immanuel

Message: “Your Focus for Life” Luke 12:22-34 *Hymn #306 (Red): A Passion for Souls *Prayer