

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 31, 2008

Passage: Luke 12:1-12

Memory Passage:

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 12:1-3.** What size crowd had gathered to hear Jesus? Who did Jesus still focus his teaching on?
- (b) What does Jesus warn his disciples to beware of? Why does he call it leaven? How does leaven work? How is this a good picture of the way hypocrisy works in our lives?
- (c) How would you define hypocrisy? Consider some of these verses in your definition: Matthew 7:5; Luke 6:42; Luke 13:15; 1 Timothy 5:24-25. Especially consider the actions of Peter and Barnabas in Galatians 2:11-14.
- (d) What warning does Jesus give that ought to cause us to fear any hypocrisy in our lives (Luke 12:2-3; Ecclesiastes 12:14)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 12:1-3 and Ecclesiastes 12:14 and talk about hypocrisy. What is it? How does it affect us? How does it affect our friendships? How does it affect our testimony? Pray that your heart might be protected from hypocrisy and that your actions might be consistent with your faith.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 12:4-7.** What warning does Jesus give his disciples in these verses? What does Proverbs 29:25 remind us?
- (b) How did Paul say our fears of men affect our serving the Lord (Galatians 1:10)?
- (c) How did Paul live his life (Acts 20:24) and how did he tell others to live theirs (Philippians 1:27-30)? Why (Philippians 1:19-21)? What did Jesus say they could do *after* they kill the body?
- (d) Why would he tell this to his disciples (Luke 12:8-9)? What would they face (Mark 13:9; Luke 21:12; Revelation 2:10)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 12:4-7 and Proverbs 29:25. Do you fear what others might think about you? How does that affect your witness? How can it affect your lifestyle (Hebrews 12:1-4)? Pray that you might have the courage this week to be open about your faith in Christ.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 12:4-7 again.** In contrast to fearing what men can do to us, who does Jesus tell us to fear and why?
- (b) How would you define the fear of the Lord? What is the value of fearing God (Proverbs 1:7; 10:27; 14:26; 16:6)?
- (c) Read Proverbs 14:26. How is the fear of the Lord a place of refuge for us?
- (d) What do these verses tell us about the knowledge of God? What does Psalm 139:1-12 tell us about God's knowledge of everything in our lives? How should that affect our fear of God? How can it give us encouragement?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 12:4-7 and Psalm 139:1-12. How much does God know about you and everything you do? How would you live your life differently if you realized that God saw everything you did? How would this protect us from hypocrisy? Pray that you will be aware of God's constant watchcare over all your life.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 12:6-7.** What words of encouragement did Jesus give his disciples after warning them to fear God? What does this tell us about the disciple's fear of God? Is it a terror?
- (b) Read 1 John 4:16-18. What kind of fear is John telling us about (Psalm 119:20; James 2:19)? Why would a believer not have this kind of fear (Romans 8:15)?
- (c) Does this mean that we should have no fear or no fear of eternal punishment (Hebrews 12:18-29)? What is the difference? How can we see that distinction in Luke 12?
- (d) How intimate is God's care for you (Luke 12:6-7)? Read Matthew 10:29 and compare the costs of the birds. What is Jesus saying about how much the Father cares for you? How should this affect us when we face persecution and trials?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 12:6-7 and Matthew 6:25-26 and Matthew 6:33. Talk about God's care for us. How is the fear of the Lord tempered by His great love? What kind of fear should believers not have? Spend some time thanking God for His care for you in every situation.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Luke 12:8-12.** What does Jesus say a person must do before men? Why is this essential (John 5:23; John 8:41-42)? Is it possible to love God the Father and not love the Son (Luke 10:16)?
- (b) Underline the word, “everyone” (“whoever”) in these verses. How many times does it appear? What does this mean (Romans 10:13; Acts 16:24)?
- (c) What does the word, “confess” mean? What does this say about everyone who “confesses” Jesus? What does it mean to “confess” Jesus (Romans 10:9-13)?
- (d) What is the role of the Spirit in salvation? How is a person able to confess Jesus according to 1 Corinthians 12:3? What does this tell you about the role of the Spirit in conversion (John 3:3-8)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 12:8-12 and Romans 10:9-13. What does it mean to be a Christian? Is it just a matter of believing in God? What happens when a person rejects the revelation of the Holy Spirit? Pray for someone who does not know the Lord.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 12:1-12. Why is hypocrisy so dangerous in religion? How can a proper fear of God keep us from becoming hypocritical? How does it help you when you face persecution? Pray that you will have the boldness to confess Christ and that the Spirit of God will use your testimony to lead others to Christ.

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The Disciple’s Fear

“Fear Him who...has the power to cast into hell...”