HOMEWORK: Read Luke chapters 11 & 12

**Main Point**

Jesus taught His followers how to pray. We can take our needs to the Father in prayer, as He is the only one who can truly answer our every anxiety.

Read Luke 11:1-28.

* **How does calling God “Father” give power to our prayers?**

For Jesus’ disciples, calling God “Father” would’ve seemed too personal and familiar. Also, praying directly to God without the intercession of a priest was a revolutionary concept. Through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, all believers gained direct access to God, who no longer dwelt solely in the temple. We don’t pray to the Great Someone in the Great Somewhere, but to our Father in heaven (v. 2).

* **What do you think Jesus meant by “daily bread” (v. 3)? What is daily bread to us?**
* **What role does God play in meeting your daily needs? What role should He play?**
* **What is the significance of Jesus’ instructions in verses 3 and 4 to pray for “us” instead of “me”?**

Our asking God for daily bread is childlike trust that He cares, supplies, and is reliable. We acknowledge that He is our Sustainer and Provider. All we need to ask for is our basic needs for today, knowing God will take care of tomorrow’s need then. Effective prayer involves talking to God about our need, but not our greed. Nowhere in the model prayer do we find the singular pronouns me, my, or I. Love for God and concern for others are bundled together for those who by faith know God as Father.

Read Luke 11:29-54.

* **What did Jesus rebuke the Pharisees and lawyers for in verses 37-54?**
* **How can you avoid these same pitfalls?**

Jesus declared that the problem of uncleanness on our inside is not taken care of by cleansing our outside (hands, feet, etc.). The way to make sure everything is clean in God's eyes is to give freely from a heart devoted to God.

The first woe pronounced by Jesus on the Pharisees was not because they tithed everything, but because they did not practice justice and love. The second woe was because they loved the spotlight, not the Lord. Regarding the third woe, if Jews walked over unmarked graves, they became defiled. Ironically, Jesus said that following the teachings of the Pharisees was like walking over an unmarked grave; you would become defiled without even knowing it. The teachings of the Pharisees seemed genuine and true, but in reality, they were corrupted and misleading.

Read Luke 12:1-21.

* **What theme can be gathered from Jesus' teachings in these texts?**
* **How is the fear of man or fear of God associated with the teachings in this passage?**

Throughout this passage, Jesus gave many reasons that His followers should value the things of God over the things of men. Included among the topics discussed are fear and where one places value.

There are many people who can kill you physically, but that is the limit of the harm they can do. As natural as it is to fear such people, it makes more sense to fear God, for He presides over not just life and death but eternity. Those who remain opposed to Him by their unbelief and unrepentant sins will be punished in hell.

Read Luke 12:22-48.

* **According to verses 22-34, what are the specific reasons and examples Jesus gives us for not worrying about the basic needs of life?**
* **What’s required for us to take seriously Jesus’ instruction not to worry about the necessities of life?**

In verse 23, Jesus states, “For life is more than food and the body more than clothing.” Is the only source for fulfillment and meaning to our lives what we eat and what we wear? Of course not. Jesus is establishing the fact that worry is illogical for the child of God. If God is the Creator of the world, including us, then will He not also provide for our needs?

Read Luke 12:49-59.

* **Why might someone be surprised by Jesus' statement in verse 51?**
* **How does the gospel bring division? How does the gospel bring peace?**

Jesus Christ made peace with God possible for anyone who will choose to follow as His disciple (Rm 5:1). Unbelievers, however, remain at odds with God and His requirements for holiness. There will be such division over the gospel of Christ that some families will be split down the middle. The spiritual family of God is more important than family bloodlines.