

LUKE Lesson 33

Five Snares to Beware of; How to live While You Wait for the Lord, Pt 2 (Luke 12:13-40)

18 January 2019

Jesus warned believers of five snares to beware of in their lives: hypocrisy, fear of man, unfaithfulness to Christ, covetousness, and anxiety. Today we'll discuss covetousness and anxiety.

The Snare of Covetousness (Vss 13-21)

13-15 Beware of **Covetousness**: a strong or inordinate desire of obtaining and possessing some supposed good; usually in a bad sense, and applied to an excessive desire of wealth; greediness. A desire to get earthly, material possessions.

Earthly possessions (or lack of them) do not sum up your life (vs 15). We need to learn to live our lives according to the "long view;" looking beyond this life.

16-21 The parable of the rich fool. The definition of a fool is given in Psalm 14:1 and 53:1. The fool lives his life as though there is no God. God called this man a fool (vs 20) not because he was rich, but because his material wealth was the most important thing in his life, above God.

Earthly material possessions are temporary (1 Jn 2:17, Proverbs 23:5), and so is our present life on this earth (James 1:10, 4:14, Job 14:1-2, Psalm 39:5, 89:47, 1 Pet 1:24). We can't keep riches and earthly possessions forever. God is eternal and our soul is eternal. With that in mind, we ought to devote our time, talents, money, strength, etc. to the Lord.

The Snare of Anxiety (Vss 22-30)

22-23 The Lord has promised to take care of our temporal needs (food and clothing) so that we can concentrate on what is really important; things with eternal consequences. If you can be content with the things you have, you'll never be poor. "Poor" is a state of mind where your desires exceed your possessions. Desires and needs are two different things.

If your needs have been met by God, but your wants exceed your needs, you will occupy your time trying to get those things you want. You won't be able to live for the Lord Jesus Christ.

24-30 Man is God's greatest creation, above all other physical creation. God takes care of his lower creatures and plant life (which are not eternal). Certainly, we can trust Him to take care of us and meet our needs. We need to always keep in mind that it is the Lord providing for all our needs. Then we can focus on serving Him and living for Him. Without Him we can do nothing (John 15:5).

31-32 Instead of trying to achieve great things here on earth and collect as many possessions as possible, remember that those material things pale in comparison to what God has promised you in eternity. Put God first, and the things you need will not be withheld. In fact, if you're serving God, He's going to make sure that you have what you need to continue that ministry (2 Cor 9:8).

33-34 Where is your treasure? If it's down here, you're going to devote yourself to those things. If your treasure is in Heaven, you'll live for the things of Heaven in every way you can.

Bags with holes (Haggai 1:5-7). Your earthly treasures are likened to treasures that you put in bags with holes. You're going to lose them. You'd be wiser to invest in heavenly things. There are no holes in that bag!

35-40 Live your life as someone who is preparing to meet the Lord at His return. He promised to return for His own (John 14:3). Make sure it's a day of joy, not a day of shame.

Three things to anticipate: the kingdom (vs 32), the treasure (vs 34), and the return (vs 36).

Three things we are to be doing: waiting (vs 36), watching (vs 37), and working (vs 43). The servants who obey these three things will have the pleasure of sitting with the Lord at the banqueting table (vs 37).

Colossians 3:1-4

Believers are told to "**set your AFFECTION on things above, not on things on the earth.**" Affection is greater than passion. Passion is the result of you getting excited from the presence of someone or something. Affection is an abiding love that doesn't require the presence of the object of affection.

That's why the shield of faith is "**above all**" (Eph 6:16). "**Without faith it is impossible to please Him**" (Heb 11:6). "**Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**" (Heb 11:1).

Our affection should be toward our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, "**Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory**" (1 Pet 1:8).
