

An Hour from Now

Luke 12:13-21

Introduction

I believe with all my heart that the Spirit of God moved me yesterday to change my message from the next sermon in the Deuteronomy series to this sermon because He intends to use it in the lives of those present and the lives of those watching online. When God placed it on my heart, I could not shake it. So, my prayer is that God would use it to save those who have not yet placed their faith in Christ and to revive those who have grown cold in their affection toward their God.

Sebastian Junger (Journalist, Author, Atheist, Undiagnosed Aneurysm in his Pancreatic artery, “I didn’t realize I would be dying an hour from now...,” reflection upon what matters in life)

Like Junger, we tend to be entirely too worried or focused on temporary matters. We believe that we are invincible. But we are not. Our worry and focus on temporary matters cause us to neglect and ignore eternal matters. In this morning’s passage, we are going to see Jesus waking up a man who was worried about the temporary matters in his life to the neglect of the eternal matters. My hope and prayer this morning is that Jesus’ words will awaken us as well.

Read Luke 12:13-21

Exposition

I. Eternal life is not found in being rich with earthly possessions. (Vv. 13-15)

Verse 15 is the key to understanding this first section in our passage. It was not inherently wrong that a man asks about having an arbiter in a family dispute over the inheritance. It was this man’s focus was on his inheritance while he stood in the presence of Jesus, the Son of Man, incarnate Son of the living God. While Jesus was teaching about eternal life, this man was worried about what he was going to inherit on this earth!

II. Eternal life is found in being rich toward God. (Vv. 16-21)

The “rich fool” hoards his abundance. Instead of practicing generosity, the “rich fool” demonstrates greed. His accumulation of earthly possessions is his hope. He rests in his own efforts. He takes comfort in what he believes he has accomplished. He has no concern for God because he feels completely adequate on his own. He is so full of the earth that he has no appetite for heaven.

But then Jesus makes the wakeup call! “You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you.” In other words, “You have grand plans regarding how you are going to enjoy the grain that you have laid up for many years, but you’re dying tonight. How have you prepared for that moment? Are you prepared for that moment?” Jesus brings the teaching to a close with verse 21, teaching us what will come of the greedy who are not rich toward God.

Conclusion

What does it mean to be “rich toward God?” To be rich toward God is to trust Him and seek Him above all else. It is to recognize that our only hope for salvation is in Christ. Jesus tells us this in Luke 12:22-34...

Are you ready “if an hour from now” you stand before God to give an account of your life? Have you placed your hope in Christ? Or are you hoping in what you feel you have accomplished? We all have plans for “many years from now,” but what about an hour from now? Will you stand before God clothed in Christ’s righteousness because you trusted in Him, because He was your hope? Or will stand there with your eternally worthless worldly accomplishments, your metaphorical barns full of the stuff that you have accumulated in this life, but with a soul that is impoverished and bankrupt because you were not rich toward God?