

**Sun., May 22**

Memory Verse: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too." -Luke 12:34

Message: Luke 4 Rejected 5: "Jesus Preaching" -Bob & Pat Rosenbaum and Tracy Hansen

Text: "But God said to him, 'Fool, tonight you will die. Now who will get the things you have prepared for yourself?' 21 This is the way it will be for those who hoard things for themselves and aren't rich toward God."

Scripture: Luke 12:1-34

Blurb: We listen as Jesus teaches us about right priorities, how we must live in the world, but to not become obsessed with it. He guides us that we can live centered, wholesome lives marked by inner peace when we place our primary focus on eternal life. We listen to Jesus, again with the help of a panel, listening for how we are to live today.

Bulletin listing of the reading for next Sunday: Luke 12:35-59

***[Recorded Worship Beginning]***

**WELCOME** -Pastor David

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too." -Luke 12:34

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Prerecording

*Let Your Kingdom Come*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

***[Live Worship Beginning]***

**GATHERING SONG:** *No Longer Slaves* -Sanctify

**WELCOME** -Pastor David

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too." -Luke 12:34

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify

*In Tenderness*

*Hymn of the Holy Spirit*

*It Is Well*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

**[Both Recorded & Live Worship]**

**LOVE.GROW.SERVE. MOMENTS:** Love Offering & St. Andrew's Family Shelter Volunteer Week

**PRAYERS AND APOSTLES' CREED** -Pastor David

**GENERATIONAL BRIDGE** -Pastor Andrew

**MESSAGE: Luke 4 Rejected (Luke 10-12) #5: "Jesus Preaching"**

**PP#1:** Rejected 5: "Jesus Preaching"

“But God said to him, ‘Fool, tonight you will die. Now who will get the things you have prepared for yourself?’ 21 This is the way it will be for those who hoard things for themselves and aren’t rich toward God.” -Luke 12:20-21

“Rejected: Jesus Preaching.” Luke 12:20-21 “But God said to him, ‘Fool, tonight you will die. Now who will get the things you have prepared for yourself?’ 21 This is the way it will be for those who hoard things for themselves and aren’t rich toward God.”

**PP#2:** *Image for living our lives on earth with an eye focused on heaven/glory, with a physical bed across the bottom of the screen.*

How embedded are you in your life? That’s a great picture word: “embedded.” There are days I want to just stay in bed and not get out there and face the rest of life. I want to stay embedded. It means being so stuck in the moment—in the here and now—that we ignore the rest of life. Now, it can be positive when it means being fully present in your context. But it can also limit and skew our view: we don’t act or behave or make decision based on the *bigger* reality: we are too embedded in what’s close, in what we can see, perhaps only in what we *want* to see. How embedded are you: both in a good way, and in a limiting way?

This is Jesus’ question, I think, in Luke 12. Jesus has been fully embedded in His earthly life for 33 years. He knows fully what it means to be human, and He knows our human situation as well as we do. But in Luke 12 He also knows that He is in His last months on earth. He knows He will soon be crucified and rise again and go back to glory. And so He is also looking at life beyond this earthly life. And that’s the message He’s sharing: How to live now fully in this life while also living in a way that knows that this life will soon be over and eternal life begins. This is the Gospel message, after all, right? This is God’s Kingdom: it’s breaking into this life and, if we let it, it will grab us and carry us into eternal life. So, what does that mean for how we live now? Jesus is preaching and teaching and calling His disciples to ask, “Just how embedded are we?”

**PP#3:** *Image of a panel of famous people, perhaps The View?*

Today we have the joy of having a panel of wonderful disciples from our church to help us engage what Jesus is teaching. They are people just like us who are listening to Jesus here in Luke and have been asking the Holy Spirit what this means for how we are to live as disciples for Jesus. They don’t have any magic answers, but they do seek to live as faithful Christians. So, panel, please come on up here and take your spots on these daunting stools.

Let's give them a warm welcome, church, and encourage their bravery!

[*Bob, Pat and Tracy come sit on stools.*]

Thank you, panel, for being here today! It takes courage and a lot of work. But you are among friends, and we are blessed by you. We can't wait to hear what you do with this passage.

**PP#4:** Bob Rosenbaum, Pat Rosenbaum and Tracy Hansen

For the first time we've got a husband and wife team, so it'll be interesting to hear them side by side, and then there is the helpful, third-person perspective, too! So, panel, please introduce yourselves and also share with us your plans for Memorial Day weekend.

Bob: Introduces himself and shares his plans for Memorial Day weekend.

Pat: Introduces herself and shares her plans for Memorial Day weekend.

Tracy: Introduces herself and shares her plans for Memorial Day weekend.

**PP#5:** Luke 12:1-34 "Jesus Preaching"

12:1-12 Warnings and Encouragements

12:13-21 Parable of the Rich Fool

12:22-34 Urging to Not Worry

Excellent! May the Holy Spirit inspire your sharing today, and our receiving!

Okay, church, let's turn to Luke 12. Luke is compiling Jesus' preaching and teaching over a period of a number of weeks and at various locations. At the end of the last chapter—chapter 11—Jesus has just finished sparring publically with the Jewish leaders. Now, in chapter 12, Jesus turns and warns His closest disciples about their hypocrisy. As He does, huge crowds again gather around to listen in as Jesus teaches them. Evidently what Jesus had said about the pharisees and scribes got around, and the people liked what they heard!

**PP#6:** Luke 12:1-34 (CEB)

1 When a crowd of thousands upon thousands had gathered so that they were crushing each other, Jesus began to speak first to His disciples: "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees—I mean, the mismatch between their hearts and lives. 2 Nothing is hidden that won't be revealed, and nothing is secret that won't be brought out into the open. 3 Therefore, whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light, and whatever you have whispered in the rooms deep inside the house will be announced from the rooftops.

Jesus uses the image of "yeast" to warn that what hypocritical people may try to hide—you can't *see* yeast in the dough—will eventually be "proved," or revealed, just like how dough rises. Many pharisees were overly concerned about looking pious and holy while actually acting selfishly and trying to be in charge. God's truth always reveals the inner condition, as what people think they are hiding eventually becomes known in their lives.

Let's read: Luke 12, 1-3, "1 When a crowd of thousands upon thousands had gathered so that they were crushing each other, Jesus began to speak first to His disciples: "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees—I mean, the mismatch between their hearts and lives. 2 Nothing is hidden that won't be revealed, and nothing is secret that won't be brought out into the open. 3 Therefore, whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light, and whatever you have whispered in the rooms deep inside the house will be announced from the rooftops.

Okay, let's go to our illustrious panel and hear how we are to understand this, and what that means for our lives. Tracy, how about you go first!

Tracy: Hypocrisy in the Bible refers to an actor playing a role, the character he plays is not who he is. The pharisee's hearts and their lives were mismatched. They played a role publicly, but in their hearts they were someone else. Be careful that your hearts and lives are not mismatched. Watch what you say and do at all times. Someone is always watching.

So, we are to watch others, but also to watch ourselves! Pat, you shared a personal story of how this impacted you in becoming a woman of faith. Please share a bit about that.

Pat: Hypocrisy is the practice of claiming to be moral but behavior doesn't conform. We cannot keep secrets or unfaithful behavior from God. God knows all. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed or hidden that will not be known.

I became a Woman of Faith through life circumstances. My mother died when I was nine. My dad that worked as a mechanic in a mine of northern Minnesota was laid off when the mine closed. He went to find work in Twin Cities. This left my older brother of two years and my younger sister of six years and myself to fend for ourselves. We are often impacted by others who come into our lives in the middle of a crisis. It happened to me, when my dad's sister came to live with us. She attempted to provide family structure. In part, due to her also as the middle child, God prompted me to be the responsible one and gave me the strength and endurance to follow through on what needed to be done to care for our family. A year later my aunt left for her home in Texas and God placed His hands on me. Through this, my faith developed unknowingly to me. God acts in strange ways at times. I believe without knowing it God provided for my ability to be mother to my siblings.

So, your aunt's *authenticity* became visible to you that year, and it helped you grow spiritually even during the hard time you were experiencing. Hypocrisy would not have cut it!

Thank you! Jesus calls His followers to live authentically and to NOT be so concerned with what others think about us. Instead, we should be more concerned about what God thinks! After all, there is so much more than this earthly life.

**PP#7:** Luke 12:1-34 (CEB)

4 "I tell you, my friends, don't be terrified by those who can kill the body but after that can do nothing more. 5 I'll show you whom you should fear: fear the one who, after you have been killed, has the authority to throw you into hell. Indeed, I tell you, that's the one you should fear. 6 Aren't five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them is overlooked by God. 7 Even the hairs on your head are all counted. Don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

Verse 4, “I tell you, my friends, don’t be terrified by those who can kill the body but after that can do nothing more. 5 I’ll show you whom you should fear: fear the one who, after you have been killed, has the authority to throw you into hell. Indeed, I tell you, that’s the one you should fear. 6 Aren’t five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them is overlooked by God. 7 Even the hairs on your head are all counted. Don’t be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.”

So, we should fear God. But that doesn’t mean be afraid of Him. After all, just look how much He loves us! It’s more of being in holy awe of Him. Respectful fear.

Bob, help us understand this.

Bob: We are admonished that we should not be afraid to die for Christ since it is God who will determine our afterlife either to heaven or to hell. The killer can no longer do anything meaningful to my body after I am dead. God can! These verses suggest to me that we need to remain vigilant in loving Jesus Christ so that no matter what, we can believe that we will be allowed into heaven. We have to remember that we are loved by the Father God and are more important to Him than the rest of His creation. He wants us in heaven...we just need to trust in Jesus in righteous love.

Yes, trust in the love we see so powerfully revealed in Jesus! Pat, your hard childhood not only helped form your faith, but also your career as a principal. You continued to experience God’s loving care. Please share.

Pat: Fear the one who can send you to hell. He watches over all of us. As a teacher and administrator I had contact with many children that I called resilient children. I had a principal assignment in St. Paul that had the largest Somali population of children. These children were resilient, many were born or living in camps for their protection during the wars in Somalia. When they came to America, many only had one parent or relative because a parent had been killed. Many had never been in school nor did they speak English. These were challenges the children had to live with. A resilient child is one that is able to withstand and recover from difficult conditions. I feel I was a resilient child. I tried to do my best as a nine/ten-year-old, to fill the gap to be a good mother and father to my siblings. To this day my sister refers to me as “Mom.” I believe God has not forgotten me and has watched over me since childhood. Even when I feel unimportant, God declares that I am of great worth. God remembers and cares for us all.

So good! God takes our hardships and uses them to make us resilient! This is part of the way we see how God loves us, and creates authenticity in us. God has a good plan for us each of us! Thank you.

**PP#8:** Luke 12:1-34 (CEB)

8 “I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before humans, the Son of Man [Human One] will acknowledge before God’s angels. 9 But the one who rejects me before others will be rejected before God’s angels. 10 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever insults the Holy Spirit won’t be forgiven. 11 When they bring you before the synagogues, rulers, and authorities, don’t worry about how to defend yourself or what you should say. 12 The Holy Spirit will tell you at that very moment what you must say.”

So, Jesus keeps going, saying that spiritual authenticity means publically standing firm for Jesus even when it isn't popular, rather than hypocritically being a fair-weather Christian. It's not always easy—especially in the moment in front of others, but the Holy Spirit will help us. Verse 8, “I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before *humans*, the Son of Man [*Human One*] will acknowledge before God's angels. 9 But the one who rejects me before others will be rejected before God's angels. 10 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever insults the Holy Spirit won't be forgiven. 11 When they bring you before the synagogues, rulers, and authorities, don't worry about how to defend yourself or what you should say. 12 The Holy Spirit will tell you at that very moment what you must say.”

Okay, we need to understand verse 10. This is what we sometimes call the “unpardonable sin.” Sounds very scary. Insulting the Holy Spirit here means closing your life to His working in you. If you shut out how God is trying to get through to you, then you close the door to His forgiveness, and you do not allow Him to forgive you. It's shutting God out. But if you are the least bit concerned about this, you haven't done it!

Tracy, what stood out to you in this section?

Tracy: What struck me, in verse 12, was that the Holy Spirit will give you the words to say at the moment you need them, not before. If you're like me, you rehearse speeches or excuses in your head for a long time before any words actually need to be spoken. This verse tells me not to do that. It tells me to allow the Holy Spirit to speak through me, in order for God to get the glory.

Yes, we can trust the Holy Spirit to guide us in our normal conversations, and even prompt us what to say. Bob, you've experienced this. Share with us about that.

Bob: A number of years ago, myself and a good friend from this church were in Canada on a fishing trip with 10 other people of varying ages and faiths. Sitting around a campfire about 11:00 PM, one camper states unequivocally that there is no God with his evidence being how he was treated by other so-called Christians who tried to or did try to welch on a financial deal between him and them. Right there two Methodist boys looked at each other hoping the other would call him on his statement. And we did disagree stating, I think, our divergent view. But did we stand up for Christ and effectively state a case for Christ? That has always bothered me because as these last verses suggest, we are not to deny him. My opinion is that we may do that if we don't speak up for Him.

I am always blessed by the idea that the Holy Spirit will lead us when we are confronted on our belief in Christ. I take that on faith. I am reminded of an incident where several years ago, while carrying out food to a car for community care, without planning to I reached out to an elderly lady as she passed by, touched her shoulder and delivered a very short prayer of comfort and healing. She thanked me and passed by, coming back to me a few minutes later to tell me how much that meant to her and that it brought peace to her having felt, she said, ‘God's presence at that moment. Don't know why I did that as that is not, typically me. I believe that the Holy Spirit caused me to be God's vehicle at that moment.

Yes, if we have the boldness to follow the nudges of the Holy Spirit in us, we will be the witnesses we need to be. But we have to be bold enough to do it!

**PP#9:** Luke 12:1-34 (CEB)

13 Someone from the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

14 Jesus said to him, “Man, who appointed me as judge or referee between you and your brother?”

15 Then Jesus said to them, “Watch out! Guard yourself against all kinds of greed. After all, one’s life isn’t determined by one’s possessions, even when someone is very wealthy.”

Now, at this point, someone in the crowd speaks up and asks Jesus to arbitrate a family inheritance case. Rabbis were often asked to mediate family problems. But Jesus uses this opportunity to address the whole crowd, calling them to beware of greed and being too worried about worldly possessions. Verse 13, “Someone from the crowd said to Him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.’

“14 Jesus said to him, ‘Man, who appointed me as judge or referee between you and your brother?’ “15 Then Jesus said to them, ‘Watch out! Guard yourself against all kinds of greed. After all, one’s life isn’t determined by one’s possessions, even when someone is very wealthy.’

**PP#10:** Luke 12:1-34 (CEB)

16 Then He told them a parable: “A certain rich man’s land produced a bountiful crop. 17 He said to himself, What will I do? I have no place to store my harvest! 18 Then he thought, Here’s what I’ll do. I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. That’s where I’ll store all my grain and goods. 19 I’ll say to myself, You have stored up plenty of goods, enough for several years. Take it easy! Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself. 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool, tonight you will die. Now who will get the things you have prepared for yourself?’ 21 This is the way it will be for those who hoard things for themselves and aren’t rich toward God.”

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So, we call this the Parable of the Rich Fool. And this really applies to us today, right? I mean, how much of our lives is doing exactly this! We get too *embedded* in our stuff! Tracy, help us sort this out.

Tracy: Being rich in the earthly sense isn’t wrong, but you need to be rich towards God as well. It’s when we are not rich towards God or are not storing up treasures in heaven that’s the problem. Something Jesus said came to my mind when I read verse 20. Jesus said “you do not know the hour I will come...”

Yes, that is very interesting, isn’t it! We must live each day as if it might be our last, or Jesus might return! So, live with a loose attachment to the stuff of this world. Pat, how do we do that?

Pat: Share what you have. God has given us plenty. Be grateful and help others. God has given me plenty: The Love of my Life, Bob for 56 years next month and a cancer survivor for 12 years now, wonderful children and family, a church family to be proud of, adequate financial resources, and an undying faithfulness to my Jesus.

Amen! Yes, we have more than we can ever need...God is so generous. So we need to live that generosity, and generosity helps us enjoy the blessings of this life while not focusing too much on material things. Count your blessings, right?

**PP#11:** Luke 12:1-34 (CEB)

22 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Therefore, I say to you, don’t worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. 23 There is more to life than food and more to the body than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: they neither plant nor harvest, they have no silo or barn, yet God feeds them. You are worth so much more than birds! 25 Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? 26 If you can’t do such a small thing, why worry about the rest?”

Okay, one more passage, a long one! After addressing the crowd, Jesus now speaks to His closest disciples. This is either a repetition of His Sermon on the Mount, or Luke puts some of that message here. It’s Jesus’ urging to His followers to not worry. Let’s listen for why. Verse 22, “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Therefore, I say to you, don’t worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. 23 There is more to life than food and more to the body than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: they neither plant nor harvest, they have no silo or barn, yet God feeds them. You are worth so much more than birds! 25 Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? 26 If you can’t do such a small thing, why worry about the rest?’

**PP#12:** Luke 12:1-34 (CEB)

“27 Notice how the lilies grow. They don’t wear themselves out with work, and they don’t spin cloth. But I say to you that even Solomon in all his splendor wasn’t dressed like one of these. 28 If God dresses grass in the field so beautifully, even though it’s alive today and tomorrow it’s thrown into the furnace, how much more will God do for you, you people of weak faith! 29 Don’t chase after what you will eat and what you will drink. Stop worrying. 30 All the nations of the world long for these things. Your Father knows that you need them. 31 Instead, desire His kingdom and these things will be given to you as well.

“27 ‘Notice how the lilies grow. They don’t wear themselves out with work, and they don’t spin cloth. But I say to you that even Solomon in all his splendor wasn’t dressed like one of these. 28 If God dresses grass in the field so beautifully, even though it’s alive today and tomorrow it’s thrown into the furnace, how much more will God do for you, you people of weak faith! 29 Don’t chase after what you will eat and what you will drink. Stop worrying. 30 All the nations of the world long for these things. Your Father knows that you need them. 31 Instead, desire His kingdom and these things will be given to you as well.



**PP#13:** Luke 12:1-34 (CEB)

“32 Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights in giving you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to those in need. Make for yourselves wallets that don’t wear out—a treasure in heaven that never runs out. No thief comes near there, and no moth destroys. 34 Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too.”

“32 ‘Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights in giving you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to those in need. Make for yourselves wallets that don’t wear out—a treasure in heaven that never runs out. No thief comes near there, and no moth destroys. 34 Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too.’”

Well, easy enough to understand. The hard part is doing it! Bob, give us a personal example for what this looks like.

Bob: “I grew up in a financially poor family where money was always short. My parents were both God-fearing people who believe that God would provide. He did! We always had more than enough to eat, clothes to wear, roof over our heads and a reminder from Mom and Dad that God loved us and cared for us. He was always thanked for what we had. Did my parents wish they had more money than they had. Yes, they did! I remember dad saying once that he knew that God would not give him more than he could handle, but he wished that God wouldn’t test him so often. They never lost faith and raised a God-fearing family of 4 kids in ways they thought were right... and we made it! This last verse (treasures in heaven) is brought home to me again by my mother who, while being taken to dialysis by my sister, sitting in the car – raised her hands toward heaven and called out, “Jesus, Jesus” and died. She went to get her treasure in heaven which is what she wanted her whole life.... And she got to preach to her family right to the end!

That’s powerful! There are far more important riches than worldly wealth. But finances can cause lots of anxiety, right, Tracy?

Tracy: The instruction not to worry, or be anxious about you life, I used a lot when Lee got laid off in Iowa. The Holy Spirit spoke the word “enough” to me. I remembered a study this church did that was titled “Enough.” God knows your needs and will provide *enough*. Enough resources to buy food, pay bills, etc. All I had to do was believe. And God did provide for all our needs, plus some left over to share. Verse 33 does not mean that Christians need to sell everything and live in cardboard boxes. It means get rid of the possessions that have become idols or that you are worshipping.

Good insight! Very helpful!

So, don’t become too embedded with our stuff. It brings an all-consuming distraction and anxious worry. How much better and more peaceful life we have when we hold loosely to the stuff of this world and instead focus more on the life to come. We are embedded in this life as human beings for sure, but we must resist the temptation to become bedridden!

**PP#14:** Image for “*Words of Wisdom,*” or “*Jesus’ words to live by!*” or “*Listening to Jesus,*” etc.

So, panel, give us a summary of what you are going to carry with you from this passage in your walk with Jesus going forward. Give us your nugget of wisdom!

Pat: Be faithful to God. Don't worry. He knows our needs and will provide. Share your worldly possessions. Trust in God. Seek the Kingdom of God. Keep God focused. Invest in the life to come.

Seek first God's Kingdom, right? Jesus also said that! Bob?

Bob: Living for God's kingdom takes on many characteristics, without us always realizing His impact in our lives. Keeping the life of Jesus in front of us, we honor Him by our actions.

Yes, being a disciple is not just what we think or believe, but how we live it out! Tracy?

Tracy: Always remember you are God's precious child and He will provide enough.

There it is: words to live by and the reason we can.

Wow, panel, thank you so much for walking us through this passage! We join you in hearing Jesus in a way that it changes how we live. Jesus calls us to get out of bed and go live!

Thank you, and amen!

*[Panel returns to their seats.]*

**[Live Worship Only] CLOSING SONG: *Let Your Kingdom Come* -Sanctify**

**OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS -Pastor David**

Next week: Final panel! Final Luke! Panel: Julie Hovey, Lily Betker, Sue LaVigne

Wed., May 25: Gina Lindholm - Italian!

Read ahead Luke 12:35-59

After worship today: Town Hall Meeting about Capital Drive

Shelter week starting today!

Next week: Grow group signups

**MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David**

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too.” -Luke 12:34

**BENEDICTION -Pastor David**

**POSTLUDE -Sanctify (live)**