

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #44

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 12:4-12

Sermon Date: Jul 23, 2006

Have you ever “marinated” in God’s Word?

Do you sometimes meditate on a small portion of Scripture?
Do you know how to do this?

An important part of the Bible study process is simply reading the text, letting it speak to you as it was intended to. Every time we approach a passage, this is a good place to start. We must learn to trust God and his Word.

For the Word of God is living and active.
Sharper than any double-edged sword,
it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit,
joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts
and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

With our world's hectic pace, long to-do lists, and 24/7 activity cycles, it's easy to lose our ability to slow down, to listen, to reflect, to wonder. Many of us need to stop “making so much progress” so we can start making real progress.

In this week's Bible study, we are going to slow down and practice our ability to read and re-read a portion of Scripture in order to soak in deeply what it says, what it means, how it will change our lives. For some of us this will be easy, like an old friend. For others, it will be uncomfortable and frustrating. Trust God to use this experience for your good. Ask him to.

This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/

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Journal

1. Read through Luke 12:4-12 several times. Imagine you are sitting at Jesus' feet like Martha's sister Mary, soaking in what he is saying. Perhaps it will help you to take a few notes, circle some things, pray a little, write a note back to God in response. Don't rush into studying this passage – rather, work on your ability to simply listen to it. Keep coming back to what He wrote by re-reading the passage.

⁴“I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. ⁵But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. ⁶Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ⁷Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

⁸“I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. ⁹But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God. ¹⁰And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

¹¹“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, ¹²for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (Ps 119:105)

2. Set aside your previous trains of thought, ideas, notes, etc. and read the passage afresh. Ask God to open your ears, your mind, and your heart to hear new things, to notice more of what He is saying in this passage. Use the margins and journal page to jot down your observations, thoughts, feelings, interpretations, etc. Keep re-reading the passage to stay connected to this portion of God's Word.

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*I lift up my hands to your commands, which I love,
and I meditate on your decrees. (Ps 119:48)*

3. This might feel like a bad dream (or hopefully a good one) as you turn the page only to find yourself back where you started. Read the passage again. Find some new things in it. Challenge yourself to stay in the passage long enough to find the really good fruit that God has hidden in it just for you. Use your pen to interact with God about it. Maybe you'll need to put it down for awhile and come back to it. But do come back. Keep listening closely. The God who loves you dearly has more to tell you.

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*I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.
My eyes stay open through the watches of the night,
that I may meditate on your promises. (Ps 119:147-8)*

