

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #46

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 12:22-34

Sermon Date: Aug 6, 2006

Introduction:

“God Will Provide”

In the previous passage (Luke 12:13-21), Jesus warned His listeners about the evils of greed, specifically the danger of hoarding possessions and not being “rich toward God.” Now Jesus takes His message a step further, telling the crowd that they should not even worry over what they will eat or what they will wear, because God will provide for them. Don't worry? For most of us, that certainly seems easier said than done. As we consider this challenging message, however, remember that “nothing is impossible with God.” (Gen 18:14; Matt 19:26, Luke 1:37).

As you enter into this study, pray that the Holy Spirit will be with you as you open the Divine Word.

Heavenly Father, may we come to know You better through this study, so that we can be free from the worries of this world, and instead learn to rely on Your love and bountiful provision for us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to make observations and note any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear.</p> <p>²³ Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!</p> <p>²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? ²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?</p> <p>²⁷ "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.</p>	

Did You Notice ...?

2. Jesus addresses His audience as "little flock." Based upon this, or any other portion of the passage, do you think Jesus was addressing believers or nonbelievers? Why do you reach that conclusion? Is that distinction important to you in considering Jesus' message? Why or why not?

3. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

4. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Dig Deeper:

5. Jesus tells us not to worry about what we are to eat or drink, or what we are to wear. On the other hand, we are told elsewhere in Scripture, "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." (1 Tim 5:8) How does Jesus' counsel in Luke 12:22 relate to how and why we are to work? (You may find some of the following verses about work helpful: Gen 2:15; 3:17-19, Ex 20:9-10, Deut 5:12-14, Ps 90:17, Eph 4:28, Col 3:17, 1 Th 4:11, 2 Th 3:6-10)

6. Jesus tells us that God is ready to give us everything we truly need if we will simply trust Him. Indeed, throughout the New Testament, we are told that all we have to do is "ask and you shall receive." But how are we to ask? What should be our motive and our heart condition? The following passages may help you draw some conclusions:

1 Kings 3:5-15

Matt. 18:19-20

John 14:13-14; 15:7-8; 16:23-24

1 John 3:21-24; 5:14-15

James 1:5-8; 4:2-3

7. This is a wonderful time of year to be studying this passage, which is so rich in natural imagery. We can look outside and actually see the flowers blooming and the birds chirping happily as God provides for their every need. Likewise, it is easy for us to trust God to provide for our needs when it is obvious that he is actually doing so -- during the

"summers" of our lives, when we have our health, a stable income, and some measure of happiness. But what about during the "winters" of our lives, when perhaps we or a family member is ill, face financial uncertainty, and nothing seems to be going right for us.

a. How do you trust God and have faith in His bountiful provision for you when that provision seems totally absent? What can you do in these darker times? (Consider Job 1:20-22, Phil 4:12-13)

b. What are you worrying about these days? Based upon what we have studied, what can you do to worry less? (Consider Phil 4:6-8 and 1 Pet. 5:7) How can you make some progress this week?

c. Do you know someone else who is a chronic worrier or has something in particular that is causing them to worry? How could you help them worry less?

8. By addressing His audience as "little flock", Jesus invokes the image of God as a Shepherd. What comes to mind when you think of a shepherd? What are some of the characteristics of a shepherd and his relationship to the sheep? How does it feel to think of God in this way? (To explore God's role as our Shepherd further, consider Gen 48:15-16, 49:24-25, Ps 23, Isa 40:9-11, Jer 31:10-14, Jn 10:1-18, Heb 13:20-21)

