

KNOWING WITH CERTAINTY

Luke 7-12

INTRODUCTION: We have completed our second week of reading through the New Testament beginning with the Gospel of Luke. We read a chapter a day, bringing us to Luke 12, so I will be preaching today from what we read, Luke 7 – 12.

If you are new, or for whatever reason, you have not yet started, let me suggest that beginning today or Monday, start where all of us are starting in Luke 13 and read a chapter a day to bring you to the end Luke 18 on Saturday. If you have more time you are willing to devote to reading the Scripture, then back up and read what you missed. But be sure to read first what we are reading together and the passages I will be preaching from next week.

We said in the beginning of Luke's gospel last week that Luke wanted Theophilus to know with certainty about Christ. He wanted his friend to have the exact truth."

But **God** who inspired this gospel **wants us to know with certainty the things about His own Son!**

What did God want us to know with certainty in Luke 7 -12?

I. JESUS LOVES EVERY PERSON AND HIGHLY VALUES HUMAN LIFE.

Didn't we see this in the very beginning of our reading?

Lk 7:1-10	Jesus heals the son of the <u>Centurion</u> .
Lk 7:11-17	Jesus <u>raises</u> the son of a widow from the dead.
Lk 7:18-23	Jesus declares the loving things He does to <u>people</u> are proof that He is the Messiah sent from God. Lk 7:22 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that <i>the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.</i> "
Lk 7:36-50	Jesus <u>forgave</u> the sins of the woman who anointed His feet.
Lk 8:2	Jesus cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene.
Lk 8:26	Jesus cast dozens of <u>demons</u> out of the man called Legion.

Lk 8:43-48	Jesus <u>heals</u> the woman hemorrhaging with blood.
Lk 8:49-56	Jesus raises the daughter of Jairus from the dead.
Lk 9:1-6	Jesus sends the apostles out for the first time and gave them <u>power</u> to show His love for people. Lk 9:1-2 1 Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. 2 He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.
Lk 9:10-17	Jesus <u>feeds</u> 5,000 families.
Lk 9:37-43	Jesus expels a demon from a young man.
Lk 10:1-12	Jesus sent out 72 disciples to cities and towns in advance of His coming and told them to <u>heal</u> the sick and declare the Kingdom of God to the people.
Lk 12:6	Jesus tells us how much more <u>important</u> people are than the rest of His creation. Lk 12:6-7 6 "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Folks, **Jesus loves people!** Jesus values human life. How appropriate for us to be reading in the gospel this week in advance of Sanctity of Human Life Sunday.

We all started our lives in the womb. And you won't believe your eyes when you see the incredible images of human development before birth provided by Personhood USA.

4 days	This zygote doesn't look human? Well, scientifically, it is! It's growing, so it must be alive. It has human parents, so it must be human. In fact, since fertilization, the zygote has possessed a predetermined sex (it's a girl!) and her own unique set of human DNA. Her DNA will guide her body's development over the next nine months (and its entire lifetime!).
5-6 weeks	Despite being only a quarter of an inch long, her nose, mouth, and ears are already taking shape! Her heart is beating about 100 times a minute (almost twice as fast as yours) and blood is beginning to circulate through her body. Brain waves have been detectable for at least 2-3 weeks already!
7 weeks	We can see the brain, eyes, and liver in addition to fingers and toes on tiny hands and feet.

10 weeks	All of her major body functions are up and running: the kidneys, intestines, brain, and liver are all working. Her tiny arms and legs can already start to flex. Most abortions in the United States take place around this time. If she's blessed, her mom will love her enough to let her live.
12 weeks	Her muscles are beginning to bulk up, so she's busily stretching and kicking. If you put your hand on your tummy, she'll likely wiggle in response, because her reflexes are starting to develop, although you won't feel it yet.
16 weeks	This week, the baby is going through a growth spurt. Soon she'll be growing locks of hair on her head and she's already started growing toenails. Every day, her heart pumps about 25 quarts of blood through her body.
18-20 weeks	She will likely be sucking her thumb. And right about now she has her own unique set of fingerprints.
6 months	The baby can now respond to external sounds by moving and increasing her pulse. A mother may notice jerking motions if the baby hiccups!
7 months	Maybe she heard a noise she didn't like!
8 months	This baby can hear and is beginning to recognize her mother's voice. Her skin is pink and she already is beginning to get that cute, chunky appearance that newborns have. That extra fat is very important, because it allows the baby to regulate her temperature after birth. By the way, it is not lost on me that she has more hair than I do!

We're all just grown up embryos...

Can you believe we used to look like that? Well, we did. And we were just as much a person then as we are now!

Jesus loved us then. Jesus loves us now.

He valued our life then. He values our life now.

Secondly, God wants us to know with certainty

II. JESUS VALUES ETERNAL LIFE MORE THAN EARTHLY LIFE.

Lk 10:13-16	Jesus warned people in two towns in Galilee of going to <u>hell</u> because by rejecting Him they were rejecting God the Father. Lk 10:16 ...he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.
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Lk 10:20	<p>When the 72 returned excited because they were able to cast out demons in the name of Jesus, Jesus told them,</p> <p>Lk 10:20 "...do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in <u>heaven</u>..."</p>
Lk 11:23	<p>Jesus said everybody is either on His side or the <u>devil's</u> side. There is no middle ground. There is no in between.</p> <p>Lk 11:23 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.</p>
Lk 11:39	<p>When Jesus was eating dinner with a Pharisee, he complained that Jesus did not wash His hands. Some of you are thinking, "I didn't know my mom was a Pharisee!" Jesus said what is on the <u>inside</u> is more important than what is on the outside.</p>
Lk 12:4	<p>Jesus told people not to fear those who could kill their bodies.</p> <p>Lk 12:4 "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.</p>
Lk 12:8-9	<p>Jesus again divided all mankind into two groups: <u>saved</u> and <u>unsaved</u>.</p> <p>Lk 12:8-9 8 "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. 9 But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.</p>
Lk 12:10	<p>Jesus tells us that the only sin that cannot be forgiven is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>That sin is the <u>refusal</u> to trust Jesus as your Lord and Savior.</p> <p>It is called blasphemy of the Holy Spirit because when a person refuses to trust Jesus, that person is calling the Holy Spirit a liar.</p>

What we should see clearly from reading the words the Holy Spirit caused Luke to write is that as much as Jesus loved people, cared about their hurts and needs, ministered to those hurts and needs, and taught His followers to do likewise, Jesus' greatest concern for people was and is their eternal well-being.

Jesus wants people to be saved from a horrific eternity in hell so they can spend a glorious eternity with God.

Jesus called upon men and women to repent of their sins and turn in faith to Him who would die upon the cross in their place and rise from the dead.

Listen, I still have more I am going to share with you, but this was and is so important to Jesus that I am going to lead us in prayer right now, either for ourselves or for others we know.

I am going to lead every one of us in this room who is willing to pray a prayer of faith in Jesus, either for themselves or for someone they know who is lost. In a moment when we pray, you start by saying either

- **Jesus, this prayer is about me. I want to be saved right now.**

or

- **Jesus, I pray You will cause their name to pray this prayer of faith to You and be saved.**

Now bow your heads and pray aloud with me.

Jesus, I know I am a sinner And I need a Savior.

I believe You are that Savior. You are the Son of God. Today, I repent of all my sins.

I turn away from them. I invite You to come into my life. I want You to be my Lord.

I want You to be the master of my life. I trust You as my Savior.

I want to follow You the rest of my life.

The final observation about Luke 7-12 is particularly for us.

God wants us to know with certainty

III. JESUS WARNS US THAT THERE WILL BE AN ACCOUNTING OF HOW WE USED OUR LIVES.

Lk 12:2-3	<p>Jesus said there is coming a time of accounting.</p> <p>Lk 12:2-3 2 For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. 3 Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.</p> <p>For the lost, this is at the Great White Throne Judgment. This is when the record books are opened and each lost person is shown to be guilty before Holy God and then is cast into the Lake of Fire forever.</p> <p>For the saved, what shall be uncovered is only that which happens after our salvation, and it shall be shown at the Judgment Seat of Christ. This is not a judgment of salvation, for</p>
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	Christ has paid the penalty for our sins, but this is a judgment determining rewards and our place of service in the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. All we have done after we are saved will be judged as to whether it was something for our own pleasure and comfort, or whether it had eternal value.
Lk 12:13-21	Jesus warned us against an abundance of possessions and said Lk 12:21 “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”
Lk 12:22-34	Jesus assured us that God will care for our needs and told us to seek the Kingdom of God. Lk 12:34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Lk 12:35-40	Christ Jesus is coming back. Lk 12:40 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”
Lk 12:41-48	When the Master returns, the accounting for what we have done as believers will begin. Lk. 12:48 ... For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

Fellow believer, listen to my plea. Whether Christ returns tomorrow or in 100 years, each of us who will spend eternity with the Lord still will have to give an account as Paul says in his letters “of what we have done in the flesh.”

We need, dear brother, dear sister in the Lord, to spend our lives for the things that matter to the Lord Jesus.

Jesus values life. So what can we do?

- **Support and help people who are on the front line of protecting and preserving life.**
 - **First responders**
 - **Doctors and nurses**
 - **Caregivers for sick, handicapped, disabled, and elderly**
- **Support and help pregnant women, especially those with little family support.**
 - **Volunteer at “A Sheltering Tree.”** The number is on the insert.
 - **Provide things they need to help women in crisis pregnancies or having difficulty caring for their child.**
- **Do what you can to encourage and help others value life.**

When I was a young pastor, abortions were even more common place than they are now. We were in a large city, Tulsa, Ok. Pregnancy Help Centers were not common and there was none in our town. Karen and I and some other pastors and lay people in our town determined we would start one. We knew nothing of how but purposed we would learn. My sweet wife Karen became our first volunteer director of the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Karen's first ministry to children was saving their lives before they were born!

When we moved to Slidell, abortion clinics in New Orleans were busy places. We already had Pregnancy Help Centers in Slidell and in New Orleans, so I decided to spend some Saturdays peacefully standing or marching on the sidewalks around an abortion clinic with signs encouraging people to value life hoping to influence a doctor or a nurse or a woman considering killing her unborn baby to think again and value life.

We had a state senator who was a member of our church. He attended every Sunday before elections. But when critical pro-life legislation was coming to the floor of the state senate, I led a group from our church to drive to Baton Rouge. We talked a Paige into taking him a message on the Senate floor. He came out to meet us, and began to hem and haw about what he was going to do and what a mixed bag this was for his constituency. We assured our state senator and so-called member of our church how the Lord Himself valued life, and come election time, we would show how much we valued life in the way we voted and in the way we supported candidates in LA. Our senator decided he would be pro-life.

Now folks, I don't tell you that to say you ought to do any of the things Karen or I have done. I did what I did to receive the approval of One, and I don't really care what anyone else thinks, nor am I telling anyone to do what I did.

But do something!

While we live in a culture that values life so little, do something to tell them that the Lord our God who gives life and takes it away, values that life greatly!

- At least vote pro-life
- Explain to friends and family why you are pro-life, showing them that Jesus valued life.

Jesus values eternal life even more than life on earth.

So what can we do?

- **Share our testimony.**
- **Share the gospel.**
- **Invite someone to church.**
- **Work in an evangelistic ministry where the gospel is being shared.**