

FACING THE FUTURE WITHOUT FEAR

Luke 12:4-7

December 28, 2008 Sunday am

INTRODUCTION

- A. George Barna, a Christian pollster made the following statement when the price of gasoline peaked a few months ago:
“**We Christians are more frightened about the price of gasoline than we are about another terrorist attack, because we are trading in our gas guzzlers for imports as fast as we can sign the papers.**”
- B. Now that the price of gasoline has come down we are still afraid of what will happen to our tanking economy.
 - 1. First there were the bank bailouts.
 - 2. Then the insurance giant bailouts.
 - 3. Recently there was the auto bailouts.
- C. Usually the start of a new year brings the excitement of a fresh start and the hope for a better year. Next year, however, may be even worse than this year.
- D. How can we face the future without fear?
 - 1. Jesus has some words for us in Luke 12:4-7.
 - 2. Twice in these verses Jesus says we don't have to be afraid.
 - 3. Why?

I. FIRST, BECAUSE GOD IS STRONGER THAN OUR FEARS.

- A. We are afraid of many things in this life.
 - 1. What others think about us.
 - 2. Job loss
 - 3. Poverty.
 - 4. Sickness
 - 5. Death—v.4.
- B. Our life, though, is more than what happens to us in this world.
 - 1. Since Jesus warned the Pharisees of their hypocrisy in verses 1-3, verse 5 is directed toward them.
 - 2. Jesus' point is that God is ultimately the only one we should fear.
 - a. The word used in verse 5 for fear is not to cringe or be anxious toward God.
 - b. Instead, it means to hold God in reverence and awe.
- C. King David tells us what we should do when we are afraid of others or our circumstances.
Psalms 56:3-4 ³ When I am afraid, I will trust in you. ⁴ In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?

II. SECOND, BECAUSE GOD CARES ABOUT YOU.

- A. God cares about his littlest creatures—v.6.
- B. Ethel Waters used to sing so well, “If His eye is on the sparrow, I know He watches me”.
- C. Jesus' point is that God cares even more about us—v.7b.
- D. Peter confirms this fact.
1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

III. THIRD, BECAUSE GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT US, BUT STILL LOVES US.

- A. Jesus said God knows even the smallest details about us—v.7a.
 - 1. The Greek language says the hair on our heads are already numbered by God.
 - 2. That's easier for some than others.
- B. The Psalmist confirms God's knowledge of us.
Psalms 139:1-3 ¹ O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. ² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

C. Jesus' point is that we shouldn't fear anything because God knows everything about us but still loves us.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

CONCLUSION

A. Will next year be better than this year?

B. If you're a Christian it should be because Jesus tells us we don't have to be afraid of anything, not even a bad economy.