

day 1: Day One (Luke 12: 1-12) Yeast is what causes bread to rise. It is a small fungus that feeds on sugars. As it does alcohol and CO2 are released. The CO2 is what causes bread to rise. When it is baked the alcohol and CO2 evaporate and we are left with fluffy bread. Why does Jesus call hypocrisy yeast? Yeast affects all the dough it touches. How dangerous is our hypocrisy. It too, affects everything it touches. Ask the Lord today to reveal any hypocrisy in your life.

day 2: (Luke 12:2-5) "O be careful little mouth what you say...O be careful little mouth what you say...for the Father up above is looking down in love, O be careful little mouth what you say..." Did you learn this as a child? How strong is Jesus' admonition! Our words and thoughts are known to him. Though we may escape in this life with foul words and thoughts, we cannot escape in the life to come. Ask the Lord today to examine your words and thoughts.

day 3: (Luke 12: 13-21) "...a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." We know this in our heads, but how easily we are tempted. It is difficult to go against the flow of our culture that urges us to have more and better all the time. Jesus calls us to a way of simplicity. Membership in the Kingdom of God is not based on status or hierarchy, but on our acknowledgement of the pre-eminence of the Kingdom reality.

day 4: (Luke 12: 22-31) Are your days filled with worry? Does our government or our economy cause you undo fear? Are you living under the authority of the Kingdoms of this world or under the authority of the Kingdom of God? When we have surrendered to the Kingdom of God, we can live lives that are not overwhelmed with fear and worry. The King of this Kingdom has promised to take care of us. Ask the Lord to show you any places in your life where you are not trusting Him.

day 5: (12:32-34) How insightful to the human condition Jesus is. Those things that we truly treasure, possess us. A little more personal inventory is in order today. What occupies most of your life? What thoughts are most prominent in your mind? What priorities are betrayed by your check register? Where is your treasure? Ask this brave question and pray about the Lord's response.

day 6: (Luke 12:1) Only one verse and I'm pinned. Jesus addresses all that we've studied this week to his disciples, not to the rabble or the crowd. Jesus is talking to his near and dear followers. Such strong words for those closest to Jesus? Yes. And for me. And also for you. Re-read the first 34 verses of this passage. What have you learned this week? What has the Lord been saying to you?

Alternate Reality

Sunday, March 1, 2009

Luke 12: 1-34

I. Encouragements

II. Warnings

a. Functional Hypocrisy

b. Greed

c. Remedy

i. Seek the Kingdom First, everything else after that!

ii. Assurances: don't fear, don't worry...

iii. Responsibility: put our treasures in the Kingdom of God

III. Demonstration that we Accept this Word = Communion