

HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

May 7/8, 2022
Luke 12:22-31

Sermon by Pastor Josiah Nordgren
Sermon Based by Pastor Vance Hartzell
Familj Moment by Aia Olson

FAMILY MOMENT

Pastor Josiah reminded us that the rich man focused all his time and energy on earthly things, while Jesus tells us to do the opposite and to focus our energy on eternity with him.

- Ask your kids what a treasure is. Explain that things that we love and find important are our treasures.
- Talk about some things that your kids love and why they love those things.
- Explain that it's perfectly fine to love and cherish those things. Emphasize that when we take care of our favorite items like our toys and electronic devices, we are honoring God by taking care of the things that He has blessed us with. All blessings come from Him.
- Now talk about things that will help us focus on God like being kind to others or saying kind words to our friends and family. What other things can your kids come up with? They May surprise you!

Pastor Josiah also talked about learning to live with open hands:

- A posture of receiving, giving and surrendering
- Not holding too tightly to everything I have
- Giving as freely as I've been given
- Take your child to the sink and ask them to hold their hands under the faucet but with their hands closed. Turn the water on and talk about how the water just pours down over their hands. Their hands are closed so naturally, they aren't able to catch or hold any of the water.
- Now ask them to open their hands making a cup while the water runs. Discuss how their hands are now being filled with water but what do they notice? Is the water overflowing from their hands?
- Discuss how God has so much to offer us but we cannot receive it if we are closed off to it. Our hands represent our hearts: if our hearts are open to receive God's love and blessings then eventually, it will be so full that love and blessing will overflow to those around us.

THINK
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TALK
ABOUT
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LIVE
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'OHANA GROUP

Passages covered by Pastor Josiah in sermon (Luke 12:13-21 and Luke 12:32-34).

Passages covered by OG study below (Luke 12:22-31).

I don't know about you, but even as a pastor, I can still worry a lot. Many times, it's because I'm not putting things in an eternal perspective, like, will this really matter in a hundred years? At other times, I worry because I'm also not looking at things from God's perspective, like, if He can take care of the universe, couldn't He take care of whatever happens in my life? Not worrying doesn't mean not having responsibilities but it does mean trusting God in all of our circumstances.

1. Do you find yourself worrying a lot? What is it usually about?
2. Do you believe God can take care of all our needs?

We all have responsibilities like taking care of our parents in their old age (Exodus 20:12), raising our kids well (Ephesians 6:4) or providing for our families (1 Timothy 5:8) but today, it seems these things are getting tougher and tougher to do. That's where God comes in. Luke 12: 22-31 says if God can take care of the birds in the air and the grass in the field, wouldn't He take care of us? Matthew 7: 9-11 says, "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

While in prison, under heavy persecution, the Apostle Paul could still say, "I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength." Philipians 4:11-13

How can Paul say these words even when he's jailed under persecution? That's because God taught Paul to keep his eyes on the prize, which is the salvation of Jesus Christ. Nothing else matters. In Philipians 3, he speaks of counting all things as "rubbish" and "loss" in order that he might gain Christ.

1. How have your possessions ever "owned" you?
2. How will you live with "open hands" this week?

Our life does not consist in having lots of things. Life consists in knowing God. John 17:3 says, "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." As Jesus says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)

1. Set an appointment this week to know God better.
2. Ask him to assure you that He has your circumstances fully in His care.