

March 6, 2016

Your Soul Luke 12:16-21

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

One day, you'll separate yourself from everything you possess except _____ thing. Today we're going to consider something that many people _____. What is it? We're here to search the Scriptures for God's _____. We search because our _____ destiny depends on what the Scripture says. If we're wise, we'll _____ with love to God's Word and _____ it. Every _____ that we enjoy comes from the hand and the heart of God. We give God our hearts and our minds as we _____ to Him speak in His Word, the Bible.

Life is swift and _____ with many joys and sorrows, victories and defeats, hopes and heartaches. Some things we _____ control, and other things we _____. When life comes to a close, there are many earthly things that we must _____ behind. We'll leave our possessions, our treasures, and our families. Paul said, "For we brought nothing into the _____, so we cannot take anything out of it either" (1 Timothy 6:7). You will only take _____ thing out of this life. And, you're making a _____ from day to day where you will go when this life is over. What will you take with you? Your soul!

"Soul?" That's a word you don't _____ much these days. You have a soul. You've _____ had a soul. Your soul is you. God _____ you your soul, and you're deciding each day by how you think and how you live what you're going to _____ with your soul. You're deciding each day what will _____ to your soul by how you think about God and how you _____ to Him. God is taking notice of your _____. He knows _____ about your heart and your life. You can't fool him. He knows what's going on in your soul. What is God _____ inside of you?

Our reading today comes from the words of Jesus in the Gospel According to Luke 12:16-21. Those are the Word's of Jesus and need to be taken seriously.

What is the soul? The Hebrew word for soul is *nephesh*, and it originally _____ "to breathe." God gave us life and breath and we became a _____ soul. Genesis 2:7 says in the King James Version, "And the LORD God formed man of the _____ of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a _____ soul." To have a soul means that I have a _____ existence. Sometimes the word soul is translated "life," or "being," or "self." While animals also have a life force, only man is spoken of as having as a part of that life, a _____. According to Stephen Renn in his Expository Dictionary of Bible Words, the underlying essence of the word *nephesh* or soul "may be described as that quality which lends to human beings their distinctive individuality as creatures made in the _____ of God." Your soul is what makes you what you are as a person.

The Bible translates the word “soul” in a variety of ways and with different _____. I want to _____ some of those meanings. First, the word “soul” can sometimes refer to the _____ person. Here it’s the equivalent to the word “_____.” The Lord God asks us to love Him with _____ our heart and soul. There really is no difference between those two words. Both refer to that inner person, the _____ of our emotions, our intellect, and our will.

The word “soul” is found 143 times in the book of Psalms and the psalmists are usually speaking of their passionate _____ being. David worshiped God saying, “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is _____ me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits” (Psalm 103:12). In Psalm 139:14, David said to God, “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully _____. Wonderful are your _____; and my soul knows it very well.” Isaiah expressed the feelings of his soul, “At night my soul _____ for You, Indeed, my spirit within me _____ You diligently; For when the earth experiences Your judgments, The inhabitants of the world learn righteousness” (Isaiah 26:9).

When Mary found out that God had _____ her to bear a holy child, the Son of God, she said, “My soul magnifies the Lord” (Luke 1:46). When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He told His disciples, “Oh, my soul is very _____, even to death” (Mark 14:34). So the soul can _____ to our innermost thoughts and emotions.

But, the reason the soul is able to feel and to reason is because it’s _____ in nature. The Lord Jesus warned, “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in _____” (Matthew 10:28). That spiritual part of us, our souls, is not a material thing, but it will _____ beyond this life. The Hebrew writer tells us, “Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be _____ to the Father of spirits, and live?” (Hebrews 12:9). You have a spirit, a soul, that’s given to you by _____. That’s what makes you a creature made in the _____ of God. That spiritual part of you is what you will _____ into heaven or into hell. That’s why your soul is so _____!

Jesus is a _____ to our souls. Not only does He offer us forgiveness of sins, He also provides a way that our souls can _____. Christianity is livable! It’s not impossible to _____ the Christian life. It’s not so difficult that we can’t go to _____. **Read what the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30.** Jesus _____ your soul and He wants to give you an abundant life, and that means giving you peace and comfort.

Second, sometimes the word “soul” refers not to some part of us but to the _____ person. For instance, Acts 2:41 says, “So those who received his word were _____, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” Peter spoke of Noah and his family being _____ on the ark. First Peter 3:20 speaks of “the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls (or persons), were saved through water.”

Third, sometimes the word “soul” refers to the life force in a person, that which _____

him life. While soul and spirit are sometimes speaking of the same thing, there are times when they emphasize different aspects of the spiritual _____ of man. **Read Hebrews 4:12.** The idea here is not so much that these terms are opposed to one another, as it is that they overlap and emphasize different aspects of the _____ man. The word “soul” emphasizes more the life _____ within a person, while the word “spirit” emphasizes the understanding and emotions of a person.

First Thessalonians 5:23 also seems to distinguish the soul and the spirit. This verse says, “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” God wants to save us completely: body, soul, and spirit. God is saving us as _____ people. This phrase is like the great commandment of Jesus in Mark 12:30 that you “shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” That’s all of you, every _____ of you. Just as we give our _____ to God, so God saves us completely: body, soul, and spirit.

Fourth, there are times that God distinguishes the body from the soul or spirit. One can lose his life physically, when his _____ dies, yet not lose his _____. **Remember the warning of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 10:28.** Death is a _____ of the body from the spirit or soul. James 2:26 says, “For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.” While the body _____, the spirit remains _____. Ecclesiastes 12:7 describes what happens at death, “then the _____ will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit (our soul) will _____ to God who gave it.” Your body will _____ here on earth, but your spirit, or soul will return to God.

Read what Paul could say in Philippians 1:21-23. When you’re a faithful Christian like Paul, you have the _____ of being with Christ when this life is over. This is one of the many _____ to become a Christian. The way to become a Christian is to _____ and _____ the Lord. We must never think that Christianity is somehow a _____ matter that has no personal connection. Your faith and your soul are unchangeably _____. What you believe will _____ your soul for eternity. So, I hope you _____ in the Lord Jesus and in His gospel, and you are _____ for the Lord Jesus, the way you ought to.

James 1:21 says, “Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to _____ your souls.” When people believe in Jesus, when they repent of their sins, and when they receive or accept the word of the gospel into their lives by their obedience, the word saves their souls. My friend, have you _____ the gospel message? Have you _____ it?

Accepting it means believing that it’s _____, and not only believing but committing yourself to it, in word and in deed. You not only want to get right with God, you must _____ with the Lord. Many these days are _____ the Lord and leaving His church, wandering off

into false religion and no religion. When Christians _____ from the truth of the Word of God, they put their souls in _____. **Read James 5:19-20.**

When people give up on their faith, or they start believing something that is false, or they begin to practice sin because of these things, they could _____ their souls. This is why we need to _____ God's Word, and _____ to it. Your home in _____ with the Lord Jesus is dependent on you knowing the Word of God and following it. You can know all kinds of technology, history, science, and literature, but if you wish to live forever, to live with the Lord for all time, you must also _____ the Scriptures, believe them, and follow them.

Your soul is accountable to God. **Read what God said through the prophet in Ezekiel 18:4.** Your soul _____ to God, and if you sin against Him, you will _____. This death is not simply a physical death, as some wrongly suppose, but a _____ one. If you sin, you'll _____ your soul from the grace of God. Death is a separation, and the one thing you should never _____ is to be separated from the God who created you.

Read what God's Word clearly says in Romans 2:6-11 that God will render in the Judgment.

When this life is over, I hope you can say "for me to live is Christ and to die is _____." If your soul is right with the living God, _____ will be great gain. You only have one _____ and you only have one _____. Make your time on this earth _____. Seek for glory, seek for honor and immortality in Christ. Do what is good and right; be obedient. Don't let _____ overcome you. Proverbs 23:23 says, "Buy the _____, and do not sell it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding." Oh, my friend, follow the Lord. If the God of heaven was willing to _____ His Son Jesus on a cross in order to save you from sin, that shows not only how much He _____ you but also how much your soul is _____ to Him. How much is your soul worth to you? The Lord Jesus asked, "For what will it profit a man if he _____ the whole world and _____ his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26). Your soul is worth more than the _____ world. You only have one soul. Get it right with God. On the Day of Judgment, nothing _____ will matter but whether your soul is right with the living God.

Read the text in Luke 12:16-21 again.

One day, the Lord will _____ your soul of you. Are you right with God? To get right with God, you must _____ with all your heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God; you must _____ of your sins and turn your heart toward the Lord; you must _____ Jesus Christ as the Son of God; and you must be _____ into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. This baptism is an _____ in water in the name of Jesus Christ. Baptism is when we _____ upon God for a good conscience, when God _____ away our sins and gives us _____ of life. Oh, we urge you to get right with God today!