Text: Luke 12:22-34

**Introduction**

We are all the unique creations of God I suppose in the reason. I’ve never understood our age’s fascination with either atheism or pure materialism. Just looking out the door every day always seemed to tell me that something made all this. And that that something was unfathomly greater than any of us. Things we make or do break almost immediately. The Rock band the police meant it as something of an anti-war song. With a certain desperation. But Invisible Sun just seemed sound reason. There has to be an invisible sun. It gives its heat to everyone. After all there is a visible one that does that. Surely whoever created all this – the things visible, also created and sustains the invisible.

But just because I tended to think that our age’s default was non-sense, didn’t leave me with a problem. A creator, an unmoved mover, the God of the Philosophers is fine, and He answers a bunch of otherwise unanswerable questions. But what that god doesn’t do is tell you if he’s Odin, an all-father, Loki a trickster, or Cronus who ate his children. Is god a kid with an Ant Farm? Is he a god who would demand you sacrifice your child. That had to be on Abraham’s mind. Is he the god the Calvinist’s would tell you about? The one who in his sovereignty created billions who never had any chance other than hell. He created them to display his wrath, so that all his creation would understand his grace. Or is his the God the Prophets keep talking about – slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**Text**

We see through a glass darkly. In things spiritual we do not have Moses undimmed eyes. We tend to bump through life from one scene to another. Worried about how we shall ever get through. Blaming the nearest target when things don’t go our way. Lashing out at the slightest hurt or setback. It is also those things that eventually put us on that theodicy path of doubting what God says about himself or the way he has created this world. Neither patriarchs nor prophets, neither priests nor kings, were able to convince Israel of the character of God. Israel always ended up wandering to other gods. Other gods with seemingly more straightforward deals or more timely transactions.

It is the incarnation, it is the appearance of Jesus himself, the son of God, that reveals to us what type of God we have. An old seminary prof called our gospel lesson today the divine duh. Mostly bling, stumbling around, riven with anxiety, past a worry, future an unknown except for death. Jesus grabs us by the shoulders and says listen. In a calm voice he tells us with what little vision we have to look hard.

I know you are worried about where tomorrow’s meals are coming from. Look at the ravens. It is interesting how Luke is specific – the Ravens – while Mathew is generic – the birds. Like Luke had read Poe – Nevermore. Look at that heavy foreboding black bird. So often the harbinger of evil. It’s got to eat a bunch. And it doesn’t have the Eagle’s talons. Nor it is really small like a sparrow It’s not cute like the songbirds. It needs food. Consider the Ravens. They don’t sow or reap or have storehouses, yet God feeds them. How much more are you worth than the raven?

I know you are all concerned about the end. That’s the one thing that everyone can see. Although we all spend an inordinate amount of energy trying to deny it. Tell me, how does that help? Have you added a single hour to your life by anxiety?

God provides for the smallest and you a bigger than that. The biggest stuff is beyond us. Trust that stuff to God. The nations of the world spend all their time trying to be so big. Securing money and fame and power and prestige. Everything that we need for this body and life. And trusting nobody in the process. Your Heavenly Father knows that you need this things. Seek the Kingdom, these things will be added. If you seek the world, you might fall short. If you seek the Kingdom, you get the world along the way.

**Christology**

But all of that is just Jesus the prophet saying what prophets do. God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He has chosen you as the apple of his eye. He and engraved your name in the palm of his hand. How do we know the prophets are right?

Let me put forward two ways. The first is the life of Christ. Jesus came to reveal the love of the Father. Jesus came to fulfill all the promises that the Father had long made about his love.

God promised that the old snake would have his head crushed. And that is what has happened. Satan thought he had killed the heir and that it was all his. But he reached too soon. Satan had no right to take the sinless one. And God raised him. And Satan fell like lightning. Satan can no longer breathe his threats against us to the throne. Because he’s been cast out. He’s been proven the liar. His head has been crushed.

God promised that one day all nations would stream to the mountain of God. And they do. All nations gather at the foot of Calvary. In God’s sovereign choice, he chose to die for the sins of the world. Not some small slice of the world. Not some specific people. But God so loved the world that he gave his only son.

It is in the life of Christ that we see the steadfast love of God for all creation. And it is in the life of Christ and his resurrection that we see the promised land, the new creation. He is the firstborn from the dead. We can know that God is who the prophets say he is, because Christ revealed it in himself.

**Moral**

That should be enough, but the second way we can know is in our response. We’ve seen it, or maybe more correctly we’ve heard it proclaimed to us. We’ve heard the story from reliable witnesses. From the Apostles to those we love. We can know that God is who he says he is by believing him.

By the grace of God we have obtained faith. And faith rejoices in its sufferings, which produce endurance, and endurance forms character, and character hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts. Your treasure is that faith. If you bury that treasure in the things of the world, it never returns anything. But if you put that faith in God, watch the return. It’s the Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. Where your treasure is, there you heart is. If you put your faith in God, you will know he is exactly what he says. Abounding in steadfast love.

**Eschatological**

The Father wants to give you the Kingdom. Do not be afraid. This world lasts but a little while. But you have treasure in heaven. Where thieves don’t operate and moths don’t eat it.

There is a God, and he’s revealed himself. And he has come to your heart. Let Him have it. You will lose nothing.