

Luke 12:22-34

Introduction: Jesus teaches His disciples to stand in contrast to the men who were putting all their dependence on earthly riches (12:13-21). Here Jesus repeats some of the principles from His sermon on the mountain (Matthew 6).

The Father knows you need the necessities of life—12:22-31

- 1) We should not worry about the necessities of life—12:22-23
 - a) The command to avoid the self-focus of anxiety—*“Therefore (because of 12:15-21) I tell you^{pl}, (disciples in contrast to the crowds) do not worry about your^{pl} life, what you^{pl} will eat; nor about the body, what you^{pl} will put on.*
 - b) The principle—²³ *Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.*
- 2) We should marvel at God’s faithful care of creation—12:24-28
 - a) God provides food for the unclean birds—12:24-26
 - i) Human life is more valuable than the least respected birds—12:24 ²⁴ *Consider the crows, for they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse or granary, and God feeds them; how much more valuable are **you^{pl}** (emphatic) than the birds!*
 - ii) Worry provides nothing for the worrier—12:25-26 ²⁵ *And which of you^{pl} by worrying is able to add one cubit to his lifespan (some interpret this as height)? ²⁶ If (1st class condition) you^{pl} are not able to do a very little thing, why are you^{pl} worrying concerning the other things?*
 - b) God provides clothing for the wildflowers—12:27-28
 - i) The beauty of flowers—12:27 ²⁷ *Consider the flowers, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you^{pl}, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.*
 - ii) Eternal is more valuable than the temporary—12:28 ²⁸ *And if (1st class condition) God clothes/dresses the grass, which is in the field today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more (will He care for) you^{pl}, you^{pl} of little faith?*
- 3) We should maintain a Godward focus in contrast to the world—12:29-31
 - a) Negative: obey the commands—12:29
 - i) ²⁹ *And **you^{pl}** (emphatic) do not seek (be overly concerned with) *what you^{pl} should eat or what you^{pl} should drink,**
 - ii) *nor be stressfully uncertain* (suspended in mid-air, hovering between hope and fear [Bock]).
 - (1) Don’t allow yourself to get worked up over things.
 - iii) Anxiety shows that we do not believe that God is in control. It is weak faith.
 - b) Remember the contrast—12:30-31
 - i) In contrast to frantic pursuit by unbelievers—³⁰ *For all these things the nations of the world eagerly search,*
 - (1) *and your^{pl} Father knows that you^{pl} need these things.*
 - (2) Security comes from the realization that God actively care for His children. (Bock)

- ii) Positively: maintain Godward priorities—³¹ *But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things will be added to you^{pl}.*
 - (1) A kingdom focus prevents excessive anxiety about one's earthly possessions. (Bock)
 - (2) To seek His kingdom is to seek to live in a way that honors God's presence and rule. (Bock)

The Father delights to provide for you—12:32-34

- 1) We should obey His tender commands—12:32-33
 - a) Control your imagination by the Spirit of God—³² *Do not fear, little flock,*
 - i) Why? *for your^{pl} Father is delighted to give you^{pl} the kingdom.*
 - b) Meet the needs of others because of your appropriate detachment from the things of this life—12:33 ³³ *Sell your^{pl} possessions and give alms;*
 - i) What the rich fool should have done (cf. 12:16-21)
 - c) Maintain Godward priorities—12:33b-34 *make money-bags for yourselves that do not grow old, an inexhaustible treasure in the heavens, where no thief approaches and no moth ruins.*
 - i) Remember that the rich fool left everything behind.
 - d) We should transfer our earthly treasures to our unfailing heavenly account. (Magill)
- 2) We should remember what is genuinely valuable—12:34
 - a) ³⁴ *For where your^{pl} treasure is* (what you consider most valuable), *in that place your^{pl} heart will be also.*
 - b) One is loyal to the things one values most. (Bock)

Take-home truth: True security is found only in God.