

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<sup>pl</sup>, (disciples in contrast to the crowds) do not worry about your<sup>pl</sup> life, what you<sup>pl</sup> will eat; nor about the body, what you<sup>pl</sup> will put on.*
  - b) The principle—<sup>23</sup> *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 <sup>24</sup> *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<sup>pl</sup>** (emphatic) than the birds!*
    - ii) Worry provides nothing for the worrier—12:25-26 <sup>25</sup> *And which of you<sup>pl</sup> by worrying is able to add one cubit to his lifespan (some interpret this as height)? <sup>26</sup> If (1<sup>st</sup> class condition) you<sup>pl</sup> are not able to do a very little thing, why are you<sup>pl</sup> worrying concerning the other things?*
  - b) God provides clothing for the wildflowers—12:27-28
    - i) The beauty of flowers—12:27 <sup>27</sup> *Consider the flowers, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you<sup>pl</sup>, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.*
    - ii) Eternal is more valuable than the temporary—12:28 <sup>28</sup> *And if (1<sup>st</sup> 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<sup>pl</sup>, you<sup>pl</sup> 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) <sup>29</sup> *And **you<sup>pl</sup>** (emphatic) do not seek (be overly concerned with) *what you<sup>pl</sup> should eat or what you<sup>pl</sup> 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—<sup>30</sup> *For all these things the nations of the world eagerly search,*
      - (1) *and your<sup>pl</sup> Father knows that you<sup>pl</sup> need these things.*
      - (2) Security comes from the realization that God actively care for His children. (Bock)

- ii) Positively: maintain Godward priorities—<sup>31</sup> *But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things will be added to you<sup>pl</sup>.*
  - (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—<sup>32</sup> *Do not fear, little flock,*
    - i) Why? *for your<sup>pl</sup> Father is delighted to give you<sup>pl</sup> the kingdom.*
  - b) Meet the needs of others because of your appropriate detachment from the things of this life—12:33 <sup>33</sup> *Sell your<sup>pl</sup> 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) <sup>34</sup> *For where your<sup>pl</sup> treasure is* (what you consider most valuable), *in that place your<sup>pl</sup> 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.