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God's Answer To Worry

LUKE 12:22-34

Introduction

1. How many of you have worried recently about where your next meal is coming from? (Not which restaurant, but whether you will have anything to eat?)
2. How many of you have found yourselves anxious about having any clothes to wear in recent times.
 - a. Many of us may worry about whether or not our clothes will fit, but not about having any clothes at all.
 - b. I imagine that a good number of us have clothes in our closet which we need to give away.
3. Having said that, many of us still have the tendency to worry about money:
 - a. If we don't have enough, we worry about how we will get more.
 - b. If we have plenty, we worry about how to hold onto what we have.
4. Prior to His teaching in our text, Jesus had warned His listeners about the dangers of greed.
5. You may remember His words, "not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions" (Luke 12:15).
6. Jesus' desire is that those who follow Him are free from worries over money.
7. He wants us to know that not only is God attentive to our needs, but faithful in providing them for His people.
8. In our reading today, Jesus spoke to His disciples about the futility of worrying over the basic necessities of life — food and clothing.

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8. His advice to us? "Do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your

body, as to what you will put on" (Luke 12:22).

9. In our text, Jesus teaches us . . .
 - a. First, why we should not worry (vv. 23-30).
 - b. Then, what we should do in place of worrying (vv. 31-33).
 - c. Finally, an important principle involving our hearts (v. 34).

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I. Why We Should Not Worry

A. LIFE IS ABOUT MORE THAN FOOD AND CLOTHING (V. 23)

"For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing" (Luke 12:23).

1. The word translated "life" (vv. 22, 23) is the same word in Greek as that which is translated "soul" (vv. 19, 20).
2. Jesus is applying the lesson of the rich fool to His disciples and to us.
3. Food, clothing and shelter are indispensable needs for all of us.
4. When Jesus tells us not to worry about these things, He is not saying that we shouldn't plan to meet those needs, but that we shouldn't have undue concern over them.
5. Life is more than a good meal or a new set of clothes.

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B. GOD VALUES YOU MORE THAN RAVENS (V. 24)

"Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!" (Luke 12:24)

1. Ravens and their little brothers the crows were and are to be found everywhere, in every nation of the world.
2. They are scavengers and under Old Testament law were considered

unclean (cf. Leviticus 11:15).

3. Unlike the farmer, they do not sow or reap. They have no storeroom or barn for their food, but God makes sure they are fed.
4. Jesus isn't telling us that we should not work, because there are other passages which utilize certain creatures of God as examples of hard work (i.e. the ant, Proverbs 6:6-8).

“Go to the ant, O sluggard, observe her ways and be wise, which, having no chief, officer or ruler, prepares her food in the summer and gathers her provision in the harvest.” (Proverbs 6:6–8)

5. What He is saying is that you and I are far more valuable than these birds, and if God cares for them, to make sure they are fed, will He not also care for you.

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C. WORRY IS FUTILE (VV. 25-26)

“And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life's span? If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters?” (Luke 12:25–26)

1. None of us can add any time to our lives by worrying about them — worry cannot change reality.
2. If anything, our worry and anxiety only serve to shorten our lives and desolate what is left of them.
3. It has been estimated that . . .
 - a. 40% of our worries are about things that never happen.
 - b. 30% concern things in the past that cannot be changed.
 - c. 12% are needless worries about our health.
 - d. 10 % are petty, miscellaneous worries.
 - e. only 8% of our worries deal with legitimate issues.
4. So, as Jesus says, if you or I cannot do such a little thing as adding one

hour to our lifespan, why do we worry about other things.

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D. WORRY INDICATES A LACK OF FAITH (VV. 27-28)

“Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You men of little faith!” (Luke 12:27–28)

1. Perhaps you have admired a patch of wildflowers growing along a roadside or in a field somewhere.
2. Jesus said, “consider” them, notice them.
3. These ornaments in a field exist without concern or worry.
4. God is the One who “so clothes the grass of the field.”
5. These flowers which are “alive today,” will “tomorrow” be used by a woman, in her furnace, to cook a family meal.
6. If God clothes the field in such a way, will He not much more see to our needs.
7. When we worry about such things, we reveal the smallness of our faith.
8. All worry stems from our lack of faith in God — when we worry, we are doubting that God truly cares for us.
9. So what does Jesus tell us to do?

“And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and **do not keep worrying**. “For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but **your Father knows that you need these things.**” (Luke 12:29–30)

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II. What Should We Do In Place Of Worrying?

A. SEEK GOD'S KINGDOM (VV. 31-32)

“But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:31–32)

1. In Matthew 6:33, Jesus said “seek first His kingdom, and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”
2. The things of which Jesus speaks are not the luxuries of life, but the necessities.
3. God’s kingdom, His glory, His reign are to be the defining purpose of our lives as Jesus’ disciples.
4. When we make God’s way our primary goal in this world, all the other things which the world seeks — the food, clothing and shelter — will be given to us.
5. God will also give us something far greater than these lesser things — He will gladly give us the kingdom itself.
6. In Romans 8:32, the apostle Paul asked us an important rhetorical question, “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?”

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B. BE GENEROUS AND READY TO SHARE (v. 33)

“Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys.” (Luke 12:33)

1. Jesus is not telling us to literally sell everything we have and give it all away.
2. We read in the Bible of many faithful servants of God who were very wealthy (i.e., Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Job, David, Lydia, Philemon).
3. Instead, we are to keep a loose grip on our possessions, to be ready to share what we have, to use our possessions to serve others.
4. Our money, our homes, our possessions, our luxuries, our time and our

lives are all to be committed to Christ.

5. Only as we lay it at His feet, for His use, will we find ourselves with “an unfailing treasure in heaven” (v. 33).

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Conclusion

1. Jesus concluded this section of His teaching with an important principle: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Luke 12:34).
2. Heart and treasure always go together.
3. Our heart, the center of our being, is where our valuables, our energies, our time, all the things we value the most are to be found.
4. Where is your heart?
 - a. In your home, your land?
 - b. In your business?
 - c. In your bank account?
 - d. In your hobbies, your jewelry, etc.?
5. Or is your heart in heaven? In the church? In the lost souls of our community? In those who need to hear the gospel around the world?
6. If this is where your heart is to be found, you have nothing to worry about.