

## Living Free from Anxiety (Luke 12:13-34)

This pandemic has brought with it a lot of anxiety. It usually comes at us because we're afraid of losing something we value – things like possessions, health or control. In Luke 12 Jesus invites anxious people, concerned about all of those things, to seek new values and new priorities and to find in that seeking the provision and security they were longing for.

### 1. A legit warning (Luke 12:13-22)

V19 *"I will say to my SELF...SELF / Soul (whole being) you're good to go! RELAX, eat, drink, be merry!"*  
Seems commendable – conservative even!

Kingdom of self = living for himself – he talks to himself, plans for himself, congratulates himself!

This man was placing his faith, security, future in himself and his possessions.

Colossians 3:5; Ephesians 5:5; 1 Timothy 6:10

Covetousness and greed is a real-life threat to our well-being. It not only has the potential to distract you (take you off course), but will consume you, rob you and leave you for dead. Luke 9:24

### 2. A new outlook (Luke 12:22-30)

Jesus turns to his disciples and says, *"In light of the things you just heard, don't be anxious..."*  
*Life is far more valuable than what you eat, wear or have.*

A reorientation is called for: You are not your source; God is your source.

God FEEDS, CONTROLS, CLOTHES and KNOWS. V24 *"Consider the ravens"*

VV25-26 *You have far less control than you're willing to admit.* 1 Peter 5:6-7

V27 *"Consider the lilies"*

Requires trust in God's character. Belief that he's looking out for your best interest.

### 3. A new pursuit (Luke 12:31-34)

V31 *"Seek" "Direct your attention unswervingly"* - implies an ongoing commitment.

A lifestyle choice that involves your entire being / whole heart.

If you're seeking God's good and loving rule, Jesus is your greatest priority, because Jesus is King.

V32 = Tender, affectionate words for those he knows will wrestle with all kinds of fear and anxieties.

We're the recipients of God's self-giving love and generosity in Jesus – we're to reflect that generosity.

When we live this way we show that covetousness and anxiety have no hold on us.

V34! What you pursue with your whole being *is* what you treasure.

*"Help me take your warning seriously, to live with a new outlook on life and to pursue your kingdom for the treasure it really is."*

## QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 12:13-34. Jesus answers a man who wanted to settle a dispute with a parable. What is the parable about? What did the rich man in the parable do that was so foolish? How do we actively "guard" against "all covetousness"?
2. What are the similarities and differences between the greed and anxiety of Jesus' day and the greed and anxiety exhibited today?
3. What kind of anxieties and worry has this pandemic brought out?
4. In VV22-24 Jesus isn't asking the disciples to reflect on the birds and flowers to encourage a kind of romantic nature-mysticism. What is his point instead?
5. How does Jesus challenge your thinking about possessions, security and God's rule in this life?
6. Read VV31-34. If the kingdom of God is the *"rule of God"* and if *"where there's a kingdom there's a king,"* what does it look like to "SEEK the kingdom" in your life?
7. What has God's loving rule, powerful control and faithful provision in Jesus accomplished? How does the answer to that help us face anxiety producing circumstances with a new outlook?

PRAY: Pray for the trust to lay down anxieties or desires that affect your single-minded pursuit of Jesus (God's rule / God's Kingdom). Read Jesus' words in Luke 12:22-30 and ask him to give you an increased trust in God the Father's character and provision. To see him as your source and desire.