

# Luke 12:22-34

## A Worry-Free Life

Image Church // The Gospel of Luke: Inverted Kingdom Wk. 18

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### Introduction

Image Family today marks a special day for us because **WE ARE BACK TO NORMAL!** *Can we put our hands together and celebrate that!*

It's been a crazy and unique 16 months where we've had to shift and adapt in so many ways... We've faced some of the biggest challenges we've faced as a church, I know it has been a hard season for many of you- no one could have prepared us for what took place.

And yet, God has been incredibly faithful through it all and I believe that He's done a work in us and through us as a church!

There are many here today who've connected to our church during the midst of a pandemic which is absolutely incredible! If that's you, we want you to know how thankful we are for you and how excited that we are that you've joined our family!

In fact, every week we're seeing new folks join us at our gathering- So just know if you're new around here, now is a great time to jump into the life of our church! We would love to help you get connected and one of the best ways to do that is through Community Groups- so we would love to help you take that next step!

- I want to encourage you to stop by our **Connection Tent** right outside so that we can help you do that!

I also want to **welcome back** those of you that **have** been part of Image Church that are beginning to make your way back to our gathering! We recognize that over the next couple of months many of

you will begin to return- know that we're excited for that and that we can't wait to see you!

**For those of you that call Image Church home, I want to ask you to begin to evaluate where you're going to begin serving again-** part of going back to normal means reestablishing our sever teams so that we can create a hospitable environment where we practice love, service, and where we investment in raising up the next generation together.

So, consider than and then take an intentional step to sign up to serve, you can go to [imageatl.com/serve](http://imageatl.com/serve) or you can stop by the connections center!

- We have some exciting days ahead!

Alright, **if you have your bibles go ahead and turn to Luke 12...**

We've been in a series where we've been walking through the gospel of Luke together called ***Inverted Kingdom*** and we've been looking at the life and ministry of Jesus and the implications that it has on our lives...

What I want you to understand as we walk through all of this is this idea the Kingdom that's highlighted all throughout the gospel of Luke.

We are separated from God's Kingdom- Jesus came to give us access...

- **Future:** Through faith in the finished work of Jesus we will have access to God forever on day...
- **Right now:** we are to live in light of that Kingdom that we've been given access to- we are to live as citizens of God's Kingdom...

Jesus came to save us and give us access but also show us what it looks like to live as citizens...

- We're on this discipleship journey with Jesus...

This is a very important concept to grasp- and it's one that rubs against the philosophy of the world...

- **World says:** build you own kingdom- make life about you, you only live once so live it up...
- **Jesus says the opposite...**

We saw an example of this *last week* when we looked at the parable Jesus told the about a rich guy who chose to make life about himself and his preservation by building a kingdom for himself instead of looking to God and making life about Him, and leveraging his riches for God's Kingdom...

- And Jesus gives a strong warning at the end of the parable to not store up **treasures** for ourselves...

Well, this morning we're going to watch Jesus move into talking about worry... There's an important connection to Jesus' flow here, **so, let's pick up in verse 22 and take a look at what it is and then how Jesus unpacks this hot topic worry that we all struggle with!**

## Luke 12:22-34

**22** Then he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, ...

Ok we have to make sure we understand **2 things** here... The *first* is who is Jesus taking to? **His disciples**- so what He's about to say next is specifically for those who are followers of Jesus...

*Second*, there's a **therefore**- And if you've been here for a little while you know that we see this we have to stop and ask: *What is it there for so...* This sets the stage for everything that's about to follow...

- *So pay attention to this...* We have to do a little work here...

**Here's the connection...** One of the errors of the man in the parable right before this was that his concern was for himself, he wanted to make sure that he could establish **security**, he wanted to make sure that everything was set and situated for himself in this life...

- **You could say it like this:** he put his trust in his treasure to create security...

Now, security's not a bad thing, if we're honest we all want security in this life... But like the guy in the parable, we tend to put out trust the *wrong* places for security...

Like him it's so easy to fall prey to thinking that security is found in our ability to obtain or acquire the right amount of **stuff or status**, that will lead us to the right **situation** that we most desire in this life...

- This is often times reflected in the way that we will and the things we pursue...

More than that **it's revealed in our worry...**

Here's what happens, we want to get to a certain place in this life, we want a certain status, a certain career, or to a certain financial position...

We want to get to a place where circumstantially things are set where we can coast through life comfortably...

And what we end up doing is looking to earthly *treasure* as the means to get the security and comfort we're looking for, but inevitably we encounter setbacks, failures, and let downs along the way...

And we face uncertainties along the way not knowing how things are going to turn out... Not knowing if we're going to get the promotion, not knowing if we're going to land that client... Not knowing if we're going to have enough money for the house we want, or if we're going to be set up well for retirement... Not knowing if that job is going to open up, or if we're going to get in the school we want to get into for undergrad or grad school...

**And what do we do??** We worry, we get anxious! WHY?!?

Because all of those things enable us to acquire more earthly treasure- treasure that we think that we need in order to have security!

- Again, we may not say that, but our worry proves it to be true...

\*\*\*And the thing that Jesus is going to show us is that when we experience worry **that's tied to anything that fuels earthly treasure to feed our security** two things are happening...

- Our **trust** is in the wrong place...
  - Cannot guarantee you what you ultimately want and need.
- We are **treasuring** the wrong things...

**When our trust is in the wrong place, and when we treasure the wrong things in this life, it will lead us to a place of worry and anxiety...**

And Jesus is about to press into that... He's going to redirect our trust and refocus us on the right treasure...

OK, here we go:

**22** Then he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, don't worry about your life, what you will eat; or about the body, what you will wear."

Jesus starts in here by saying **don't worry** – it's in the *present imperative*: meaning, He's pointing to a constant attitude where worry isn't present... **Here's why**

**Verse 23** **For life is more than food and the body more than clothing.**

He's saying, there's more to life than food and clothing... *Living is more than having*<sup>1</sup>... Life is about more than consumption...

\*It's **not** that we shouldn't **care** about these things, **but that we shouldn't worry** about these things, because they are not the **essence** of life, they are just simply **elements** of life... Very important to see!

- **Elements of security**... We saw that with the rich farmer...

**One other thing to notice here:** Jesus picks the most basic things here- food and clothing...

Which means that if this is true for these things, how much truer is it for other **elements** of this life beyond food and clothing!

Alright, now Jesus is going to flesh this out, and he's going to use nature as an example to help us see why we don't need to worry... And one of his nature examples ties to **food** and the other one with **clothing**...

**Verse 24** Consider the ravens: They don't sow or reap; they don't have a storeroom or a barn; yet God feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than the birds?

Let's talk about these **Ravens**... Ravens are part of the **Crow family** –

- Which by the way if you're interested you can Crow hunt from Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> – Feb 28<sup>th</sup> ... Just a little something extra for you this morning- it's a lot of fun...

Here's the thing about these Ravens, were considered unclean- they were among the least respected birds in that day...

And Jesus makes a point to say that these birds don't sow, they don't reap, *they don't have anywhere to store excess things just in case something happened and there was a worm shortage*...

He's **not** implying that we shouldn't work here- He's driving home the **scope** of the Ravens reality, that these birds are solely contingent on God's care to sustain them, they don't have the ability to supply for themselves...

\*If there were ever a place where worry should persist it would be when you have a need and there's nothing in your ability to make it happen... *And yet for the Raven that's not the case*...

**Jesus Point:** How much more then, does God's care extend to you and to me?!? **You are more valuable than the birds**... They don't worry, neither should we...

<sup>1</sup> Bock, D. L. (1996). [Luke: 9:51-24:53](#) (Vol. 2, p. 1160).

- *Sidenote: We forget our value when we forget the cross...*

**Jesus continues...** Verse 25 **Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? 26 If then you're not able to do even a little thing, why worry about the rest?**

If you don't have the ability to add more time onto your life, then why do you spend your efforts and energy worrying?!? Worry is useless...

- **Practically speaking**, you either have something of you don't-worry doesn't help, it hinders...

I want you to consider the amount of time and emotional energy that worrying takes... I want you to consider how much it derails you from the mission God's given you...

I want you to think about the amount of time you spend praying about commodities that if you're honest you think that you need to have security in this life??

Jesus is saying it's all useless- no of it adds a day to your life- let that sink in!!

*Then He moves to the next example from nature...*

**Verse 27** **"Consider how the wildflowers grow: They don't labor or spin thread. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. 28 If that's how God clothes the grass, which is in the field today and is thrown into the furnace tomorrow, how much more will he do for you—you of little faith?"**

Jesus says that flowers who don't have the ability to make cloths, are more beautiful than King Solomon who could afford whatever cloths he wanted...

**And His point is this:** if this is how God meticulously cares for and clothes the flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, then how much more will He meticulously and intentionally care for you?!?

And then Jesus gives a very important rebuke that we need to digest...

*He says: You of little faith...*

This is so important because it shows us that **worrying is a faith problem**...

When we worry, we're functionally assuming that God's not in control...

- If we really believed He was in control we wouldn't worry!!

This rebuke is a reminder that God is trustworthy... You're more important than the birds, you're more important than the flowers...

- As crazy as this is we tend to forget it so often...

Listen, you can trust God... Some of you need to do that today, you need to let go of the things you've been worrying about and you need to allow yourself to trust God...

- And don't let you trust be contingent on the outcome...
- Sometimes we don't want to trust God because we don't want to be let down...
- **Your trust can't be contingent on the outcome... It has to be contingent of Christ**...

#### GOSPEL

- The gospel shows that God is after His glory and your good...
- God sees you, that He knows you, that cares for you- he's not far off and distant...

\*When you get tempted to worry – would you take the effort you would spend on worrying and place that effort on your trust!

Which leads to **verse 29: Don't strive for what you should eat and what you should drink, and don't be anxious. 30 For the Gentile world eagerly seeks all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.**

Jesus says don't **strive for** food, or drink- don't make that your aim...  
That's a self-focus and not God-focused...

Don't be **Anxious**: don't have emotional insecurity and instability,  
don't "to get worked up" over these things.<sup>2</sup>

*I don't know that I get all worked up over food and drink?!?*

Again, remember the application is bigger than that- Jesus' point is  
anxious that's tied to **earthly security**...

Jesus makes a contrast here where he talked about how those who  
are not followers of Jesus seek these things food and drink...

And the example that we have of that is in the parable of the rich  
farmer right before this where he built bigger barns **as a means of  
security** for him so that he could eat and drink carefree...

So, here's the question for us: **What is it that's a means of security  
for you??**

- Money, saving account, job, career, school, 401K

**What's the greatest worry that you have right now and where are  
you looking for the answer??**

What Jesus wants us to see is that **security doesn't come from what  
we can acquire, but from who has acquired us!**

Which is why we don't need to worry because our Father knows  
exactly what His kids need, and when they need it...  
Only our Heavenly Father can provide for us the security that we  
need, and He offers us security that's far greater than anything in this  
life, and that's greater than this life!

So, our priority isn't striving for earthly security, it's not running after  
more stuff, or storing up more stuff...

We're to trust our daddy for the security that He provides, for the  
needs He says He will meet that was sealed by the blood of Jesus...  
Which leads us to **verse 31**...

**31 "But seek his kingdom, and these things will be provided for you.**  
OK this is big right here...

We want everything before this, but the problem is we detach it from  
**verse 31**...

**We cannot experience the blessing of verse 22-30, if we're not  
embracing verse 31**...

Most often we worry about things that have no Kingdom weight  
because we don't have a Kingdom focus and so we worry...

*This is big, this is bold, and its why Jesus says what He says next...*  
**32 Don't be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights to give  
you the kingdom.**

This is going to be hard because it means forsaking and earthly  
Kingdom for an eternal one, but it's worth it...

You can seek the Kingdom now because your guaranteed it later!

**Little flock... The Father delights to give you the Kingdom!**

Then in **verse 33** Jesus is going to show us a how to live with a  
Kingdom mentality that doesn't worry about finding security in  
worldly things but that looks to God for security...

**Verse 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor.**  
Doesn't say give... Says sell...

<sup>2</sup> Bock, D. L. (1996). [Luke: 9:51-24:53](#) (Vol. 2, p. 1163).

Doesn't say how much to sell...

But what we see here is there's a lean toward simplicity rather than accumulation in this life.<sup>3</sup>

**And then He says:**

**Make money-bags for yourselves that won't grow old, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.**

**Moneybags** that won't grow old- that have inexhaustible treasure...

- Here it is again the, the inverted kingdom...

The way we store up this treasure is by selling our possessions, meeting needs and giving to the poor...

This would create anxiety for the world- but for Christ followers seeking the Kingdom this is worry free...

*And then Jesus gives a final reminder in this section...*

**34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

Starts with treasure- ends with treasure... *Your heart will move toward what you cherish*<sup>4</sup>...

If you treasure worldly things, and world security you will always be consumed with worry...

But Kingdom focused life is one that makes everything about God's gain and God's glory and that focuses on what will come

## Conclusion [VAMP]

**When our trust is in the right place, and when we treasure the right thing, it will lead us to a life that is free of worry and anxiety**

**You want a worry-free life? The make your life a Jesus-centered, Kingdom-focused life!**

**31 "But seek his kingdom, and these things will be provided for you.**

**Christian...**

Where do you need to repent?

What do you need to sell??

How do you need to give to make sure you value the right treasure?

**Non-Christian...**

Pray...

<sup>3</sup> John Piper, Magnifying God with Money.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.