

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (July 31, 2022)

For Personal or Group Study

Jesus tells us not to worry. However, in today's world, life seems a little more complicated than in Jesus days, and most of us don't worry about food and clothing. So, what did Jesus have in mind when He tells us "not worry about what we will eat or wear?"

Where we focus our lives and minds when life happens and worries come, can have a huge impact on how well we make it through. Jesus gives us several things to consider when these happen to us.

Procrastination is a major problem in the world today. It is putting off what needs to be done or hoping to do tomorrow what should have been done yesterday. It affects everyone of all ages - and can be fatal when it affects our relationship with Christ. We only deceive ourselves when we believe that there will still be enough time before our death or before Christ's return to come to Christ. We want to think that we are in control of the future, but the reality is that we are not. We do not even know what is going to happen in the next few seconds. The wisest thing to do is to be ready for Christ's return now since time waits for no man.

In today's lesson, Jesus uses the parable of the rich fool to teach about money and possessions, worrying, being ready, and our servant obligations.

Do Not be Anxious. Be Ready

ENTIRE SERMON PASSAGE: LUKE 12:13-48. ONLY VERSUS 22-34 AND 35-40 ARE PRINTED HERE. PLEASE READ AND USE THE ENTIRE PASSAGE FOR STUDY.

Do Not Be Anxious

²² And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?^[a] ²⁶ If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,^[b] yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰ For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his^[c] kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

³² "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

You Must Be Ready

³⁵ "Stay dressed for action^[d] and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those servants^[e] whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹ But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he^[f] would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. How does this section relate to the parable of the rich fool?
2. What does Jesus tell the disciples not to do? v22. Why?
3. What does Jesus urge them to do instead? v33. Why?
4. What does Jesus teach about the Kingdom of God?
5. Explain the role reversal described in verse 37.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

6. What would it take to transfer your treasure from Wall Street to Heaven's Gate?
7. How would your life be different if you lived the way Jesus described in this passage?
8. What is the meaning of verse 48? How would the disciples interpret it?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

9. On a scale of 1-10, what is the worry quotient in your life right now?
10. Why does Jesus say they should be ready? v39-40.

Notes: _____

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a moment or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray.