

“Beware of Worry”

Luke 12:22-34

Pastor John Miller

I. Introduction

- A. Jesus warned us to “beware of hypocrisy” (Luke 12:1)
 - 1. He also warned us to “beware of covetousness” (Luke 12:15)
 - 2. Jesus gave us the parable of “the rich fool”
- B. Today in our text, Jesus warns us to “beware of worry” (Luke 12:22-23)
 - 1. We move from “covetousness” to “worry”
 - 2. Covetousness can never get enough; worry is afraid it may not have enough
 - 3. Worry is the emotional reward material of preoccupation
 - 4. Worry is destructive. The meaning of our English word “worry” is “to strangle.”
 - 5. If you are a disciple of Jesus Christ, you are not to worry!
 - 6. So, Jesus is warning us in our text of the sin of worry

II. Jesus Commands Us Not to Worry (Luke 12:22-23)

- A. Jesus is speaking to His disciples (Luke 12:22)
 - 1. “Take no thought” (a present imperative) (v. 22)
 - a) It’s “don’t worry” or “don’t have anxious thoughts”
 - 2. Don’t worry about food or clothing (v. 22)
 - a) Don’t focus on your body (v. 23)
 - b) “Seek first the Kingdom of God” (v. 31)
 - c) Remember the foolish farmer

III. Don’t Worry About Food (Luke 12:24-26)

- A. Consider the birds (v. 24a)
- B. Consider yourself (v. 24b)
 - 1. You are of more value than the birds (“fowls”)
 - 2. We are children of God by regeneration
- C. Consider worry’s absurdity (vv. 25-26)

IV. Don’t Worry About Clothing (Luke 12:27-28)

- A. Consider the flowers (v. 27)
 - 1. Illustration- The beauty of flowers
- B. Consider yourself (v. 28)
 - 1. Grass here today, gone tomorrow
 - a) “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isaiah 40:8).
 - b) (1 Peter 1:24-25)
 - 2. “O ye of little faith” (v. 28)
 - a) It’s as simple as trusting God and believing His Word
 - b) Illustration- Jesus in the boat on the sea

V. Jesus Gives Us a “Don’t” and a “Do” (Luke 12:29-32)

- A. “The don’t” (vv. 29-30)
 - 1. “Your father knows what your needs are” (v. 30)
 - a) (Philippians 4)
 - b) (Psalm 23:1)
 - c) Don’t worry!
- B. “The do” (vv. 31-32)
 - 1. “The power to live above worry is found in the positive command” (v. 31)

VI. Be a Giver (Luke 12:33-34)

- A. A life of generosity brings liberty over anxiety
 - 1. Your heart and treasure always go together (v. 34)
 - 2. Where’s your heart? Heaven or earth?

VII. Conclusion

- A. “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:4-7).