

Series: Surprising Words from Jesus about Being a Disciple

Sermon: **God's Care for the Anxious Soul**

Delivered by: **Rev. Ben Panner**, high school pastor

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Bible text explored: Luke 12:22–34

²²And 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. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider 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! ²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸But 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! ²⁹And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, seek his 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. ³³Sell 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. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. Pastor Panner called anxiety the flip side of greed (explored in last week's sermon on Luke 12:13-21). How is that the case?
2. In explaining the parable of the sower (Luke 8:14), Jesus said that some who have heard God's Word have allowed it to be choked out by cares. What kinds of worries are likely to elbow out our intimacy with God and our fruitfulness for him?
3. What reason (vv. 22-23, above) did Jesus give for not being fixated on our material needs?

Jesus gave two examples from nature demonstrating how everything divinely created is cared for.

4. Why (v. 24) do you think Jesus picked out an unattractive, unclean bird (Deut. 14:11-14) to compare with the value of humans?
Why (vv. 25-26) is human worrying an unproductive distraction?
5. Jesus contrasted (vv. 27-28) the wardrobe of the wealthiest man of the ancient Near East (2 Chron. 9:22) with that of ordinary wildflowers. What lesson should this teach us?
6. How (vv. 29-30) does knowing that God is fully aware of your needs make worrying a useless distraction? (See also Luke 10:38-42.)
What (v. 31) is the productive alternative?
7. Pastor Ben said, “Your situation may not change, but your source of security will.”
Why (v. 32) is there no need for us to be afraid?
8. What are some practical ways (vv. 33-34) in which to shift your investing from the temporal sphere to the eternal?