

Jesus with People— “Why Are You Anxious”

Focus Passage: Luke 12:22–34

Additional Context: Luke 12:13–21

Other Passages Referenced: Haggai 1:6; Philippians 2:5–11

- **Sermon Recap:** We need to view our passage today in light of the parable told before this passage. The parable of the rich fool tells of a man who was trying to store up as many things as he could. God calls this man a fool for only caring about storing more things in a bigger “bag”. What “bags” have we been trying to fill in our lives? With unique experiences, affirmations, athletic victories, wealth, security, rest, or maybe normalcy? Jesus tells us that life is more than these things.

Why are we so anxious? Why do we try to “fill bags” to cope with our anxiety?

We underestimate God’s generosity and we overestimate our own needs.

- A raven isn’t particularly beautiful and was also considered an unclean animal. A raven does not store things in storehouses or bags. God is generous with the ravens and will be more generous with us. He clothes the grass with beautiful lilies, and he will clothe us with more. God has us on his heart and mind constantly, we must not underestimate his generosity. We chase so many things while we should be chasing and SEEKING the Kingdom of God. God gains pleasure by people coming into His kingdom through Jesus Christ and giving us the kingdom.
- Having less actually helps us embrace Jesus’ teaching that life is more. What do we need to let go of?
- Jesus emptied himself of everything. He emptied himself of reputation, glory, and even his relationship with the Father, that we may be filled. Jesus was emptied of life that we may be filled with life. He was emptied of the love of the Father that we may be filled with the love of the Father through faith in Him.

Interpretive Helps:

- The illustration of the ravens and the lilies show that they are incapable of preparing for their futures by working. Yet God feeds the birds and grows the lilies. The point is not that Christians should not work in preparation for the future. The point is that as they work, they should not allow anxiety to pull them away from pursuing God’s Kingdom.

Group Gathering

Group Check-in — Care, Celebration, Encouragement (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Informal conversation to allow individuals to catch up with one another.
2. Ask everyone how it went as they tried to obey what they sensed God saying to them through last weeks’ time together.

Allow the Word Speak — Be Hearers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

READ Luke 12:22–34

1. What does “therefore” in v. 22 refer to?
2. What is the command in v. 22 and how does it relate to the verses corresponding to “therefore”?
3. What do the illustrations of the ravens and lilies teach us about worry and anxiety?
4. What do Jesus’ questions in verses 25–26 teach us about anxiety?

5. What does Jesus say about the Kingdom of God in Luke 12:31 and 12:32?

Put the Word into Practice — Be Doers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Jesus said, our hearts indicate whether we're storing our treasure on earth or in heaven. What does my bank statement and credit card statement indicate about the affections of my heart? Does the kingdom of God show up as a prominent focus? Where does concern for the needy figure in?
2. How do identify or not identify with the words of Haggai 1:6?
3. Can you think of ways you underestimate God's generosity?
4. Can you think of ways you overestimate your own needs?

The Big Question: What do you sense God's Spirit saying to you and what concrete action will you take in response? Share your answer with the group.

Further Resources

- Illustrations and quotes from the sermon can be found on the "Sermon Slides" link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org
- Info on the Conquer Series group for men wanting to be freed from pornography. <https://wcchapel.org/grow/adult-ministry/>