

TRUST GOD AND SCURRY FROM WORRY

I. [Luke 12:22-34](#)

A. A lot of local folks endured flooding this past week as we had record rainfalls. Many basements got wiped out. A lot of ruined stuff got hauled to the curb. Think about all the stuff we have stored in our basements, attics, and garages--how much of that junk will our grown kids want after we pass on? Just remember: *"You can't take it with you."*

B. Pastor & Author, Randy Alcorn, tells the story of when they excavated the tomb of King Tut. Tut died in 1323 at the age of 17 and was buried in a solid gold coffin with solid gold chariots and solid gold artifacts--all weighing tons. But in 1922, British archaeologist, Howard Carter, discovered Tut's tomb. As for all that golden treasure Tut hoped to take with him--every ounce of it stayed behind! [Ecclesiastes 5:15 \(NLT\)](#) reminds us: *"We all come to the end of our lives as naked and empty-handed as on the day we were born. We can't take our riches with us."*

C. We've been looking at Jesus' words as recorded in Luke 12. Today we'll look at His promise to care for His children who often worry that He won't. Here's some sermon bits and pieces from last week that will set the stage for today's text:

1) None of the material wealth you rack up for yourself will be usable currency in the life to come. (Chuck E. Cheese's tokens are useless at the laundromat.)

2) Saving for tomorrow and being ready for a crisis can be rooted in complete trust in the Lord. But we can also be motivated by our lack of trust in Him. Deep down we don't believe He's really in control. He only helps those who help themselves. There's a word for that: *mistrust!*

3) There's a fine line between being frugal and being stingy. If your mentality is, *'If I work hard enough, plan well enough, and save more than enough, then I won't have to depend on God for anything,'* don't be surprised if God doesn't correct that mentality. If you think because your pantry and freezer are full of loaves of bread, you needn't pray, *"Give us this day our daily bread,"* see you in the woodshed!

4) Insecurity can drive us to seek security in things that fail to deliver.

D. When I preached my first sermon at our MHS Baccalaureate service in 1974, today's verses were my text. They never grow old for me and they always yield more than the time before. These are not mere platitudes or winsome sentiments we read today. This is the Word of God, spoken by Christ, and meant for you!

E. [Luke 12:22-34 \(ESV\)](#) Jesus teaches us why we should trust God...

1) **V22-25:** *22 And He said to His disciples (Who's Jesus speaking to? Do you consider yourself one of 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. (Jesus is not offering this as a suggestion.) 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 (or a cubit, 18 inches) to his span of life? (Worry and anxiety won't increase your longevity or your stature! And yet they might shorten your life! Charles Mayo, the founder of the Mayo Clinic said: "Worry affects the circulation, the heart, the glands, the whole nervous system, and profoundly affects the health.")*

2) **V26-28:** *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, 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! (Or 'O you who mistrust God Almighty!')*

3) **V29-34:** *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 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. (cf Jesus-Matt. 6:25-34.)*

F. So let's ruminare and contemplate and consider the impact Jesus' words:

1) *"Do not be anxious about your life..."* Anxiety and worry are not acceptable sins! Just like immorality, lying, stealing, and murder, being anxious (worry) is among the sins that put Jesus on the cross. Do you want to willingly practice something that slew our Lord?

2) "Do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried..." You can be rich and constantly worry about such things or poor and never worry about such things! Who of the two are richer towards God? You can trust your bank account or you can trust the treasury of heaven! The question is not, "What's in your wallet or safe," the question is "What's in your heart and where is your treasure?"

3) "Sell your possessions, and give to the needy..." What does Jesus mean by saying that? Have you put an asterisk in your Bible beside this verse? "Sell your possessions and give to the needy" vs "God helps those who help themselves" which of the two statements are Biblical? When it came to the poor, in the natural and the spiritual, was Jesus tight-fisted or generous beyond measure? 2 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV) is our answer: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich."

G Let's not venture out of the Chapel without revisiting V31: "Instead, seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you." Or as Matthew 6:33 puts it: "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Jesus taught us to pray: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven." John in Revelation 11:15 saw and heard: "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" The One who rules and reigns and cares for those in Heaven, is the same One who cares for us in the here and now. And a Day will come when what we presently know as the earth will be forever changed. A great merger of Heaven and earth is coming! We are seeking and praying and longing for this to unfold! But even now our great God and King provides and is worthy of our trust!

H. Revelation 21:1-4 (ESV) is that which we seek, pray for, and yearn for: **1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (He Who has promised this is faithful and He will do it!)

* Close with Prayer...

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Luke 12:22-34 (ESV)

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? **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, 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 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."

Ecclesiastes 5:15 (NLT)

15 We all come to the end of our lives as naked and empty-handed as on the day we were born. We can't take our riches with us.

2 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV)

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.

Revelation 21:1-4 (ESV)

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

King Tut's Treasure

By Randy Alcorn

Tutankhamen, the boy king, was only 17 when he died. He was buried with solid gold chariots and thousands of golden artifacts. His gold coffin was found within gold tombs within gold tombs within gold tombs. The burial site was filled with tons of gold. The Egyptians believed in an afterlife--one where they could take earthly treasures. But all the treasures intended for King Tut's eternal enjoyment stayed right where they were until Howard Carter discovered the burial chamber in 1922. They hadn't been touched for more than three thousand years. 1 Timothy 6:7 says, "*For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out*"

Quote by Charles Mayo

"Worry affects the circulation, the heart, the glands, the whole nervous system, and profoundly affects the health."
- Charles Mayo (1865-1939 - Founder of the Mayo Clinic)

Film Clips & Other Links

Stop Worrying - Troy Black

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grTuXo1hgN4>

Don't Be Anxious, Pray--Duncan Donnell

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBL6-edfHU>

A Spirit of Peace--Angus Duncan

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIArFTrou5Y>

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" - Cello Solo by Kevin "K.O." Olusola

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBm4csriPVE>

Medley: "Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God" with Pachelbel's "Canon in D"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGeQNJV4Nyk>

Bonus Stuff

Matthew 6:25-34 (NIV)

25 Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? **26** Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? **27** Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? **28** "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. **29** Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. **30** If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? **31** So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **32** For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **33** But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **34** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Philippians 4:4-9 (NIV)

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **5** Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **8** Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **9** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

1 Peter 5:6-7 (Amplified)

6 Therefore humble yourselves [demote, lower yourselves in your own estimation] under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you, **7** Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.

1 Timothy 6:7 (NIV)

7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

Proverbs 19:17 (ESV)

17 Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.

Psalms 41:1-3 (AMPC)

1 Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is he who considers the weak and the poor; the Lord will deliver him in the time of evil and trouble. 2 The Lord will protect him and keep him alive; he shall be called blessed in the land; and You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. 3 The Lord will sustain, refresh, and strengthen him on his bed of languishing; all his bed You [O Lord] will turn, change, and transform in his illness.

PSB - A Sermon Excerpt

Let me tell you about this Kingdom: This Kingdom comes with a King and His name is Jesus. Co-Creator of all things seen and unseen, He is the Word made flesh that dwelt among us; He was crucified, dead, and buried for the atonement of our sins; on the third day He rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sits enthroned at the right hand of God the Father where He lives to make intercession for us. It will be from there that He comes to raise and judge the living and the dead. It will be this King who ushers in the New Heavens and the New Earth and they will be illuminated by the Light of His Glory. Not a kingdom of meat or drink--this everlasting Kingdom will be composed of righteousness, peace, and joy. A Kingdom bereft of the world, flesh, and devil. A Kingdom of no more tears or fears, no more sin and death... And to us who can easily become worried about the smallest of things, who can turn minutia into mountains, He says: "*Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.*"

- PSB Sermon titled, "*Ravens & Lilies*" Sunday, July 12, 2015.

Statistics on Anxiety

An average person's anxiety is focused on:

- 40% -- on things that will never happen...
- 30% -- on things about the past that can't be changed...
- 12% -- on things based on criticism by others, mostly untrue...
- 10% -- on health issues, which gets worse with stress...
- 8% -- on real problems that will be faced...
- Unknown

Quote by Martin Luther

"Riches are the least worthy gifts which God can give man, yet men toil for them day and night, and take no rest. Therefore, God frequently gives riches to foolish people to whom He gives nothing else."

Quote by C.S. Lewis

"Anxiety is not only a pain we must ask God to assuage, but also a weakness we must ask Him to pardon."

Quote by Lee Roberson

"Worry is nothing but practical infidelity. The person who worries reveals his lack of trust in God and that he is trusting too much in self."

Quote by John MacArthur

"For some reason, we think of doubt and worry as "small" sins. But when a Christian displays unbelief...or an inability to cope with life, he is saying to the world, "My God cannot be trusted," and that kind of disrespect makes one guilty of a fundamental error, the heinous sin of dishonoring God. That is no small sin."

Quote by George Mueller

"The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety."

Quote by David Livingstone

"I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of God. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I shall most promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time or eternity."

Quote by Hannah Whitall Smith

"What is needed for happy effectual service is simply to put your work into the Lord's hand, and leave it there. Do not take it to Him in prayer, saying, "Lord, guide me, Lord, give me wisdom, Lord, arrange for me," and then arise from your knees, and take the burden all back, and try to guide and arrange for yourself. Leave it with the Lord, and

remember that what you trust to Him you must not worry over nor feel anxious about. Trust and worry cannot go together."

Quote by Arthur Somers Roche

"Anxiety is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind. If encouraged, it cuts a channel into which all others thoughts are drained."

Quote by Corrie ten Boom

"Worry is a cycle of inefficient thoughts whirling around a center of fear."

Quote by Corrie ten Boom

"Worry is like a rocking chair-it keeps you moving but doesn't get you anywhere."

Quote by Corrie ten Boom

"Worry is like racing the engine of an automobile without letting in the clutch."

Quote by Corrie ten Boom

"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength."

Quote by George Macdonald

"It is not the cares of today, but the cares of tomorrow, that weigh a man down. For the needs of today we have corresponding strength given. For the morrow we are told to trust. It is not ours yet. It is when tomorrow's burden is added to the burden of today that the weight is more than a man can bear."

Trust Him

Author Unknown

Trust Him when dark doubts assail thee,
Trust Him when thy strength is small,
Trust Him when to simply trust Him
Seems the hardest thing of all.
Trust Him, He is ever faithful,
Trust Him, for His will is best,
Trust Him, for the heart of Jesus
Is the only place of rest.