

RAVENS AND LILIES

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

A. On July 11, 1968 at Camp Otterbein outside Logan, OH, God apprehended me in a powerful way and I've never been the same since so yesterday was my 47th Birthday in Christ. A year later at the same camp the nudgings toward ministry began. I believe the first full blown sermon I ever gave was my senior year in high school at Baccalaureate. The text used for that message is the same as today's. These verses, along with the companion verses from Matt. 6, have spoken to me over and over again thru the years.

B. Luke 12:22-34 is about worry, God's care, trust, treasure, and God's Kingdom.

1) **V22-24** "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. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 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!" (Worry is a form of rebellion against the sovereignty of God. We never have as much control over our lives as we think we do. At the root of worry and anxiety is distrust towards the Lord. The smaller the issues that cause us to fret, the greater our lack of trust is revealed. Ravens don't have this problem.)

2) **V25-26** "And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?" (Medical studies reveal that worry can lead to severe health issues. Instead of anxiety adding to our lives they actually take away from it. Charles Mayo (1865-1939), founder of the Mayo Clinic said: "Worry affects the circulation, the heart, the glands, the whole nervous system, and profoundly affects the health.")

3) **V27-31** "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. 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! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you." (Matt. 6:31-33 puts it this way: "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.")

4) **V32-34** "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 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. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

C. 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." What say you about this?!

D. We choose our masters, either God or wealth. Those choices affect our modus operandi, our bents and life pursuits. If God is our Master, faith (trusting Him) will be the result. If wealth is our master, our lives will be steeped in anxiety.

E. Suppose there's an old house on the edge of town and it's for sale. You have the money to buy it but it will cost all your savings and even your retirement. But the walls of this house are insulated with twenty million dollars in cash. Would you consider buying it? Jesus told a similar parable about His Kingdom. Matthew 13:44 (ESV) "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

F. My encouragement to you is this: Buy the field and own True Treasure! The Treasure is Jesus Christ, the Maker of birds and flowers, the One who feeds ravens and dresses lilies. His Word is the same: "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

* 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.

Matthew 13:44 (ESV)

44 The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Quote by Charles Mayo

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

Film Clips & Other Links

Stop Worrying - Troy Black

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grTuXo1hqN4>

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" - Michael W. Smith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnX1hRZi0-w>

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

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

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" - Lauren Chandler (Hymns For Selena)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LuwsHp1ZZ9c>

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" - Alan Jackson

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nO4ulyz_d90

Medley- (Give, Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus, Your Love Oh Lord) - Third Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-8eZOHlltQ>

Bonus Stuff

Matthew 6:19-34 (ESV)

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, **20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **22** "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, **23** but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! **24** "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. **25** "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? **26** Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? **27** And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? **28** And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, **29** yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **30** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little

faith? **31** Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **32** For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. **34** "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Philippians 4:4-7 (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.

Quote by Martin Luther

"Martin Luther said this about riches: "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 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 Jay Kesler

"Things are to be used and God is to be loved. We get into trouble when we begin to use God and love things."

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (ESV)

7 Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. **8** He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.

1 Peter 5:6-7 (ESV)

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, **7** casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.

1 Timothy 6:7 (NIV)

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

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.

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.

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"*