

## DARE WE TRUST HIM?!

### I. Luke 12:22-34

A. During my 37 years of pastoring, I've often sat with folks right before they have surgery. Whether a routine procedure or something much more delicate, one of the things I've often witnessed is when the pre-op nurses take a person's blood pressure, it's running high. This even happens to folks with no history of elevated BP. Why is that? Well for one, the only minor surgery is the one you're not having. ;-) The other is that surgery can cause a great deal of worry and anxiety. So sometimes I share Philippians 4:6-7 (TLB) which says: *6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. 7 If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.*

B. We tend of course to see worry and anxiety as an internal emotional issue, separate from our physical bodies. Or we may view them as spiritual maladies, evidence of a deficiency in trust toward God. We may dismiss the idea that worry and anxiety threaten us physically--but of course they do. Charles Mayo, (1865-1939) one of the founders of the Mayo Clinic, famously said: "Worry affects the circulation, the heart, the glands, the whole nervous system, and profoundly affects the health. I have never known a man who died from overwork, but many who died from doubt."

C. Just before graduation in 1974, Mark Thogmartin and I were blessed with two key speaking roles. Mark, as Valedictorian, included Christ throughout his address. On the Sunday before graduation was Baccalaureate, and I was given the privilege of speaking. In those days Baccalaureate was held on the west lawn in front of what's now called the District Auditorium. The yard was full. Teachers, coaches, administrators, classmates, family, pastors--the whole town came. For all intents and purposes, that was my first sermon. I remember everybody talking nervously about our futures. College? Military? Factory? Labor? (*Others just thought Jesus was coming back soon and that would solve everything.*) Was I nervous? Anxious? Probably. So what was I going to speak about at Baccalaureate? Laying aside worry.

D. My text those 50 years ago was the same as this morning. Luke 12:22-34 (ESV) are Jesus' words, similar to those from His Sermon on the Mount...

1) **V22: 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. (Do any of you ever worry about such things? About other things? Big things? Little things?)*

2) **V23-24: 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!* (Earlier in this same chapter Jesus mentions how God remembers sparrows. God once fed a prophet in hiding named Elijah with ravens. He promised us through Isaiah that the weary ones would mount up with wings like eagles. The Psalmist declared that even sparrows and swallows nest in God's temple. And when the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus at His

baptism, He lit upon Him like a dove. So if you tell me this sermon's for the birds, I'll consider it a compliment!)

3) **V25-26: 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? (The medical journals seem to indicate that anxiety and worry may actually diminish our life spans--in both quality and duration.)*

4) **V27: 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. (King Solomon no doubt donned himself in some serious threads! Not to mention bling! But Jesus says lilies are more splendidly adorned.)*

5) **V28-29: 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. (We Americans fret less about such things like food and clothing because we live with such abundance. From Gucci to Goodwill--we have little trouble finding fashionable clothes. Food, likewise is easily obtained. But what about in Gaza or Ukraine or Haiti?!)*

6) **V30-31: 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. (Matthew 6:31-33 echoes: "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.")*

7) **V32: 32** *"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (So let's talk about this Kingdom: The KOG comes with a King and His name is Jesus. Co-Creator of all things seen and unseen, He's the Word made flesh that dwelt among us! Crucified for our sins, He rose on the third day to affirm that atonement! He ascended to heaven, sits enthroned at the right hand of God the Father, actively makes intercession for us, and from there He'll return to raise and judge the living and the dead! His is not a kingdom of meat or drink but an everlasting Kingdom exhibiting righteousness, peace, and joy. A Kingdom bereft of the world, flesh, and devil. A Kingdom of no more tears or fears, no more sin or 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."*

8) **V33-34: 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. (The True Treasure is God Himself! Therefore we needn't fear scarcity when we know the Supplier! We needn't fear being generous because our Provider never runs out! If we run out of stuff to give, might He not give us more to give? TRUST is what's at the core of Jesus' message. TRUST is what the little boy with five loaves and two fish had! TRUST is what the widow had who gave her last two pennies! Our TRUST is not that the sun will come out tomorrow; our TRUST is in the One *Who* made the sun and galaxies full of them! Our TRUST is in Him *Who* keeps those stars lit, the Light of the World, even*

the Light of the Universe! One day His glory alone will illuminate the New Heaven & Earth! So let me ask" Have you placed your TRUST in Him for your eternity?)

E. Charles Spurgeon tells the story of a woman aboard a ship during a terrible storm. Her husband's the ship's captain and he's totally calm in the midst of the tempest. Fearful, she asks her husband how he can be at peace when disaster threatens. He answers without words. Instead he takes down his sword, un-sheaths it, and points it at her chest. She smiles at the gesture. Her husband then asks her why she's not afraid. Her answer? *"Ah but I am not afraid of a sword when it's my husband who wields it."* Then he answers his wife plainly: *"Neither am I afraid of a storm when it is my Father who sends it and Who manages it."* Spurgeon then adds: *"Now, since all the trials and troubles of this mortal life are as much in the hand of our great God as that sword was in the hand of the good woman's husband, we need not be afraid of them, for they are all in His power!"*

F. Everyone here is or will be faced with situations where our first instinct will be fear, trepidation, anxiety, worry, and dread. *(If I'm in that boat with Jesus when waves are swamping it, I'm waking Him up too!)* Our precarious and difficult situations and circumstances will be different for each person. But our TRUST in GOD will be tested. We like the disciples may very well cry out, *"We believe; increase our faith!"* There's raw honesty in that cry and our Lord most certainly hears it!

G. A storm destroys our school's roof! Dare we still TRUST HIM? A fire engulfs my home! Dare I still TRUST HIM? I was cheated out of my inheritance! Dare I still TRUST HIM? My surgery wasn't successful--they have to go back in! Dare I still TRUST HIM? I have to learn to walk all over again! Dare I still TRUST HIM? I have to make a speech in front of all those people! Dare I TRUST HIM? All those miscarriages and now I'm pregnant again! Dare I TRUST HIM? My diagnosis is absolutely devastating! Dare I TRUST HIM? We're all getting older, who'll take care of us in our time of need? Dare we still TRUST HIM? When our time's at an end, will there be anyone to receive our torches and batons? Dare we TRUST HIM? If so-and-so gets elected and things get worse? Dare we still TRUST HIM? If terrorism increases, our freedoms disappear, persecution breaks out! Dare we TRUST HIM? If the economy crashes, a natural disaster strikes, a new pandemic ensues, more wars erupt! Dare we still TRUST HIM? Like the man Job, will we join him in saying, *"Though He slay me, yet shall we TRUST Him?!"*

\* There are sparrows and lilies and you: *"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom."*

\* Close with Prayer...

## [Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

### [Philippians 4:6-7 \(TLB\)](#)

6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. 7 If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.

### **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.

### **Quote by Charles Mayo**

"Worry affects the circulation, the heart, the glands, the whole nervous system, and profoundly affects the health. I have never known a man who died from overwork, but many who died from doubt."

- Charles H. Mayo (1865-1939) (Founder of the Mayo Clinic)

### **Charles Spurgeon - A Captain's Calm in the Storm**

"You have often heard, I daresay, that pretty little story which I cannot help telling again because it drops in so appropriately here, of the woman, on board ship, who was much disturbed in a storm, while her husband, the captain, was calm and restful. She asked him why he was so placid when she was so distressed. He did not answer in words, but he took down his sword and held it to her breast. She smiled. He said, "Why are you not afraid? This is a sharp sword, with which I could slay you in a minute." "Ah," she replied, "but I am not afraid of a sword when it is my husband who wields it." "So," said he, "neither am I afraid of a storm when it is my Father who sends it and who manages it." Now, since all the trials and troubles of this mortal life are as much in the hand of the great God as that sword was in the hand of the good woman's husband, we need not be afraid of them, for they are all in His power! When He rides aloft in His chariot, and the skies tremble at the sound, why should you tremble, even you timid ones?"

### **Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff**

**Stop Worrying - Troy Black**

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

**The End of Anxiety - R.C. Sproul (Ligonier Ministries)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0Tlzpe0Og0>

**Your Greatest Reason Not to Worry - John Piper**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=barxQEwkv7Q>

**Victory Over Fear - Voddie T. Baucham**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xI7HxPPIB-Q>

### **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.

### **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.

### **Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)**

**5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. **6** In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

### **Psalms 9:10 (AMP)**

10 And those who know Your name [who have experienced Your precious mercy] will put their confident trust in You, for You, O LORD, have not abandoned those who seek You.

**Psalm 55:22 (AMP)**

22 Cast your burden on the LORD [release it] and He will sustain and uphold you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken (slip, fall, fail).

**1 Peter 5:6-7 (Phillips)**

6-7 So, humble yourselves under God's strong hand, and in His own good time He will lift you up. You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon Him, for you are His personal concern.

**Quote by Martin Luther**

"But God declares everywhere that I should let Him care for me. He says, 'I am thy God.' This means 'I care for you; depend upon Me, await My bidding, and let Me take care of you'"

**Quote by Charles Spurgeon**

"Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength."

**Quote by Charles Spurgeon**

"Have that little bird in your bosom that sings sweetly of the love of God; wear the flower called heart's-ease in your button-hole; and you may go merrily through a perfect wilderness of trouble and a desert of care. A hurricane of afflictions may beat about you, yet you shall be a blessed man, for all the elements of blessedness are within your own heart. God has given them to you, and the devil himself cannot take them away."

**Quote by Billy Graham**

"Pray for wisdom to deal with whatever is worrying you. Pray that God will act to change the circumstances according to His will. He doesn't always do what we want Him to – but He knows what's best for us, and He can be trusted."

**Quote by Billy Graham**

"Some people spend so much time worrying about what might happen that they never enjoy what is happening [now] . . . Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday."

**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 Bob Kellemen**

"When tragedy strikes, we enter a crisis of faith. We either move toward God or away from God.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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 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."