

Money Worries

Luke 12:22-31

Read Luke 12:22-31

Verses 13-21 of Luke chapter 12 tell the parable of the rich fool. Of Jesus' words recorded in the Bible, He has more to say on money than any other topic. Luke 12 offers a good summary of His attitude. He does not condemn possessions, but in this passage which follows the "rich fool", Jesus warns against putting faith in money to secure the future. Money fails to solve life's biggest problems. Although Jesus speaks to many aspects about money, He seems to concentrate on the question: What is money doing to you? Money can dominate a person's life, diverting attention away from God. Jesus challenges us to break free of money's power—even if it means giving it all away. Jesus urges His listeners to seek treasure in the kingdom of God, for such treasure can benefit them in this life and the next one too. "Do not worry," He says (v.22), for God is the one who provides for our needs. And then to emphasize His point, He brings up King Solomon, the richest man in the Old Testament. Jesus said that a common wildflower is clothed more gloriously by God than a royal king. So do not have an anxious mind (v.27-29), "but seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you" (v.31). Better to trust in the God who lavishes care on the whole earth than to spend our lives worrying about money and possessions. The real measure of our wealth is what will be ours in eternity. *By Philip Yancey (Our Daily Bread)*

If we are not going to pursue material things, then how should we deal with our physical needs? Jesus' answer to this question is really fairly simple: "Trust God." Using creation as the example, Jesus points to the tender care of the heavenly Father and asks people to consider how gentle God is. If God can care for his other creatures, he can care for you.

1. List the examples given in this passage of God's provisions for the physical needs of His children.
2. Are believers to wait idly for God to send them food and clothing? Look up: Exodus 6:9, Prov. 6:6-11, Eph. 4:28
3. It is good to work and plan responsibly; it is bad to dwell on ways our planning can go wrong. Anxiety and worry can only be present when total confidence in God's ability to deal with our situation is lacking. The creator of the universe loves us and knows what we need (not wish we could have, but what we need). Look up: Philippians 4:19
4. Jesus explains his call not to worry by noting that life is more than food or clothing (v.25-28). The deepest dimension of life is relationship with God and with others. Jesus made it clear that real life has to do with relationship. Living is more than having; it is being in relationship with God and relating well to others. Look up: Luke 10:25-28
5. Placing concern for our daily needs in God's hands is part of what it means to have relationship with God.
Look up: Exodus 16:11-17, Luke 11:3
6. Read and discuss how Hebrews 13:5 can shape your life? What struggles do you face accomplishing this goal?
7. Describe the warning of Proverbs 23:4-5; explain the freedom offered, and perhaps even the trappings you feel.
8. What does 1 Samuel 2:7 says to you about your current financial situation? Look up: Job 1:21
9. God calls us to hold loosely to things that are fleeting. If we do not do loosen our grip willingly, God will.
10. In general terms what is the definition of "sacrifice"?

By definition, is sacrifice easy? How do you equate this fact toward your giving to the Lord's work (tithing)?

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. - Malachi 3:10

11. A.W. Tozer wrote: "Never own anything; get rid of the sense of possessing." It all belongs to God. Any blessings that the Lord has entrusted to our care are to be used to bring Him glory.

When the Israelites made their exodus from Egypt, the Lord ordained that the Egyptians would give the Israelites articles of silver, gold and fine linens as they departed (Exodus 11:2-3; 12:35). God did not simply give these possessions to His children so that they could have nice jewelry. God was entrusting these articles into their care so that they could then be used for His purpose. Look up: Exodus 25:1-9