

**Introduction:**

- If you are rich towards God you are far less likely to be covetous. (Last week's message.)
  - Covetousness - having more, wanting more, grasping for more, especially for the purpose of security and self indulgence.
  - Covetousness can also be motivate by a spirit of poverty or fear of lack. Fear of lack is a spirit of poverty.
- Jesus now addresses this Luke in 12:22-34.

**I. Do Not Be Anxious**

- A. Jesus now issues a command to his disciples. They have just heard Jesus tell a young man to be aware of covetousness. In fact, "**take care and be on guard against covetousness.**" Now his focus shifts to his followers.
1. Disciples - can be his 12 or those who consistently follow him.
  2. Mathetes (Greek) – disciple refers to a relationship between teacher and student.
  3. Jesus is addressing his followers in whom He will entrust the kingdom. He addresses the same issue from a different angle.
    - a) With the man it was a matter of more.
    - b) With His disciple it is a matter of fear of not having. After all, we have left everything to follow you! This is the call of a disciple...leaving all to follow Him, but you still have to pay the bills and eat. If you look to long at the bills or how you will eat you open the door fear/anxiousness/worry.
- B. Anxious, merimnao—to care, be concerned, anxious or to strive after. "The plural *mérimnai* is often used for the cares of life which disturb sleep, from which refuge is sought in love or drink, and which only death can end." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). In Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume (p. 584). W.B. Eerdmans. Don't be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will wear.
1. Mic drop, Kaboom! – "**For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.**" 12:23. This is a Kingdom principal! A Kingdom perspective that is critical to the disciple. There is more to life than food and clothing. le These are pretty important! But...there is something more important! Being rich toward God. vs. 21.
  2. Can you add more to you life by worrying? The answer is "NO!"
- C. When you are tempted to be anxious consider:
1. The ravens:
    - a) They do not sow or reap.
    - b) They do not have have barns.
    - c) Yet God feeds them!
    - d) And you are more valuable than the ravens.
  2. The lilies:

- a) They do not toil to survive.
- b) They do not spin more petals.
- c) Yet Solomon was not even close to looking like one of them.
- d) How much more will He clothe you!
- 3. In other words, be careful what you consider/think about.
  - a) Are you entertaining God's inability to provide or God's ability to provide?
  - b) Seek His kingdom and these things will be added to you.

## II. Be Full of Faith

- A. See God as Great!!! Jesus is telling them that they have 'little faith': vs. 28, "*O you of little faith.*" You of little faith, do you see your God? Do you see your Father? If you want to move into great faith you have to see your God as a great God!
  - 1. You are valuable to Him! vs 24
  - 2. He desires to clothe you! vs 27
- B. Seek His Kingdom!
  - 1. It matters what you are going after in this life! If we go after the kingdom, all this other stuff the world runs after will be given to us.
  - 2. Seeking His kingdom is coupled with, "*Fear not, little flock.*"
    - a) Fear - Means to run away! "Basic to the group is the primary verb *phébomai*, "to flee." As an emotion develops from the action, being startled and running away suggest "fear." This is "apprehension," while *phóbos* is "fright" or "panic."
 

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    - b) Little flock is a term of endearment. It is small, vulnerable, precious to the Father.
- C. Know God's desire: *It is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom!* vs. 32.
  - 1. That is a good reason to seek the Kingdom. Father wants to give us the Kingdom.
  - 2. Your treasure will be where you heart is. vs 34.

## III. Always Be Ready

- A. If you are seeking the Kingdom you are looking for the master! And if you are looking of the master you will ready for His appearing. "*Be prepared for action at a moment's notice.*" (Luke 12:35, TPT) Keep your lamp burning.
  - 1. Don't fall asleep. le 10 virgins of Mt 25:1-13
  - 2. Be ready to serve.
  - 3. You will be blessed, happy to be found like that by the master. For if you are found serving Him. He will be found serving you!
- B. In vs 41, Peter asks, "Is this for us or for everyone?" Jesus lets Peter decide:
  - 1. The one who serves is the one who is blessed!

2. The one who knows the master's will and is found doing it is blessed.
  3. vs 48, To whom much is given....much is required.
- C. This takes us back to 12:1, I said all this to say, Beware of the yeast of the pharisee, which is hypocrisy.

**Conclusion:**

- The desire for more and the fear of lack are closely related.
- Both are a matter of the heart.
- Therefore, live with an open hand.
- Be ready to serve Jesus at all times. You never know when the Master will be knocking on your door to serve.