

Masterclass – Trust

Luke 12:22-34 (NIV) – Do Not Worry

²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.

²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? ²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

²⁷ “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1. What helps you to trust people? What makes trusting difficult? How much does trust impact on any relationship? Can trust impact on our relationship with God?
2. Jesus gives five reasons in 12:22-30 why we shouldn't worry and strive over the material needs of life, food, clothing, shelter, and the like. What are they?

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

3. God's care over sparrows is mentioned in 12:6-8. Ravens are mentioned in 12:24. What is similar about these statements? How does the raven differ from the sparrow, from a Jewish viewpoint? What point is Jesus making using a raven as an illustration of God's care?
4. Jesus refers to our focus on material possessions in three negative ways. The first is "worry." What are the other two?

Worry (12:22, 24, 25); _____ (12:28b); _____ (12:32)

In what sense is this sin?

5. What is the significance to you that the Father has given you the Kingdom (12:32-32)? How does it make you feel? What does it consist of? How is it effective in this life? How is it effective in the life to come?
6. Why should you sell possessions and give to the poor (12:32)? In what way was this a smart move for the disciples when Roman legions were about to attack Jerusalem in AD 70? (see Luke 21:20-21).
7. Are you capable of trusting God when he asks a lot?
8. Where is your treasure? Where is your heart (12:34)? How can you know?