

## The Secret to a Worry-Free Life

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March 14, 2010

Luke 12:4-34 examines 4 Major Areas of Life that we worry about:

### 1. Worry about dying (vv.4-7).

<sup>4</sup>“I tell you, my friends, **do not fear** those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. <sup>5</sup>But I will warn you whom to **fear: fear him** who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, **fear him!** <sup>6</sup>Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. <sup>7</sup>Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>4</sup>“I’m speaking to you as dear friends. Don’t be bluffed into silence or insincerity by the threats of religious bullies. True, they can kill you, but then what can they do? There’s nothing they can do to your soul, your core being. <sup>5</sup>Save your fear for God, who holds your entire life—body and soul—in his hands. <sup>6</sup>“What’s the price of two or three pet canaries? Some loose change, right? But God never overlooks a single one. <sup>7</sup>And he pays even greater attention to you, down to the last detail—even numbering the hairs on your head! So don’t be intimidated by all this bully talk. You’re worth more than a million canaries. (The Message)

### 2. Worry that God will forget you (vv. 8-12).

<sup>8</sup>“And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, <sup>9</sup>but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. <sup>10</sup>And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who **blasphemes** against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. <sup>11</sup>And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, **do not be anxious** about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, <sup>12</sup>for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

<sup>8</sup>“Stand up for me among the people you meet and the Son of Man will stand up for you before all God’s angels. <sup>9</sup>But if you pretend you don’t know me, do you think I’ll defend you before God’s angels? <sup>10</sup>“If you bad-mouth the Son of Man out of misunderstanding or ignorance, that can be overlooked. But if you’re knowingly attacking God himself, taking aim at the Holy Spirit, that won’t be overlooked. <sup>11</sup>“When they drag you into their meeting places, or into police courts and before judges, don’t worry about defending yourselves—what you’ll say or how you’ll say it. <sup>12</sup>The right words will be there. The Holy Spirit will give you the right words when the time comes.” (The Message)

### 3. Worry about losing a fortune (vv. 13-21).

<sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, **for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**” <sup>16</sup>And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, <sup>17</sup>and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup>And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have

ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’  
<sup>20</sup>But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’<sup>21</sup>So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

<sup>13</sup>Someone out of the crowd said, “Teacher, order my brother to give me a fair share of the family inheritance.”<sup>14</sup>He replied, “Mister, what makes you think it’s any of my business to be a judge or mediator for you?”

<sup>15</sup>Speaking to the people, he went on, “Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot.”<sup>16</sup>Then he told them this story: “The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop.”<sup>17</sup>He talked to himself: ‘What can I do? My barn isn’t big enough for this harvest.’<sup>18</sup>Then he said, ‘Here’s what I’ll do: I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll gather in all my grain and goods,’<sup>19</sup>and I’ll say to myself, Self, you’ve done well! You’ve got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!’

<sup>20</sup>“Just then God showed up and said, ‘Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?’<sup>21</sup>“That’s what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God.” (The Message)

#### 4. Worry about the essentials of life (vv.22-34).

<sup>22</sup>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.<sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.<sup>24</sup>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!<sup>25</sup>And which of you by being **anxious** can add a single hour to his span of life?<sup>26</sup>If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you **anxious** about the rest?<sup>27</sup>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.<sup>28</sup>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!<sup>29</sup>And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried.<sup>30</sup>For

all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them.<sup>31</sup>Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

<sup>32</sup>“**Fear not**, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.<sup>33</sup>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.<sup>34</sup>For where your **treasure** is, there will your heart be also.

<sup>22</sup>He continued this subject with his disciples. “Don’t fuss about what’s on the table at mealtimes or if the clothes in your closet are in fashion.<sup>23</sup>There is far more to your inner life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body.<sup>24</sup>Look at the ravens, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, carefree in the care of God. And you count far more.

<sup>25</sup>“Has anyone by fussing before the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch?<sup>26</sup>If fussing can’t even do that, why fuss at all?<sup>27</sup>Walk into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They don’t fuss with their appearance—but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.<sup>28</sup>If God gives such attention to the wildflowers, most of them never even seen, don’t you think he’ll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you?

<sup>29</sup>“What I’m trying to do here is get you to relax, not be so preoccupied with getting so you can respond to God’s giving.<sup>30</sup>People who don’t know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works.<sup>31</sup>Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

<sup>32</sup>Don’t be afraid of missing out. You’re my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself.

<sup>33</sup>“Be generous. Give to the poor. Get yourselves a bank that can’t go bankrupt, a bank in heaven far from bankrobbers, safe from embezzlers, a bank you can bank on.<sup>34</sup>It’s obvious, isn’t it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being. (The Message)

#### Remember these two words: “Heavenly Perspective”.

Scripture passages from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.

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