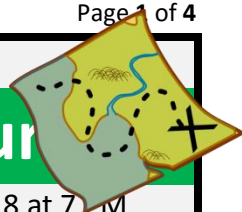


Luke 12:22-34 ESV

Where Is YOUR Treasure

Sunday, August 7 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, August 8 at 7:00 AM
 12th Sunday after Pentecost / 11th Sunday after Trinity – 2016



Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Think about your blessings; some are for now – *like your car and money*, and some are forever – *like forgiveness and peace*.

- Which category is MORE important to YOU?
- How does **YOUR ANSWER** show in **YOUR LIFE** (*we know that actions speak louder than words*)?

This sermon will focus on ➡our Heavenly Father providing all of our needs, ➡our freedom from all anxiety, and ➡Jesus' challenge to us to treasure what lasts forever!

1. **THINK – about the Source of Life, Food, Body, Clothes:**

²² And [Jesus] 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 [the] life is more than [the] food, and the body more than [the] clothing.” // Since God has freely given us our lives and bodies, He will also freely give us ➡*food to nourish our lives* and ➡*clothes to cover our bodies*!

2. **THINK – about God’s Provision for the Birds:**

²⁴ “Consider the ravens [among the smartest of all birds, and have a wingspan of nearly 4 feet¹]: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet

¹ https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/common_raven/lifehistory

God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! [*Literally, How much rather you differ...*] // God made the ravens on day 5, the people on day 6, *but people are the highpoint of His creation!* As He provides for the ravens, *He will certainly provide for us!*

3. **THINK – Anxiety has No Power for Good:** ²⁵ **“And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?** [*Literally, can add a cubit to his stature...*²] ²⁶ **If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?”** // We are familiar with the above translation – *adding length to life*, but the literal translation is – *adding length to our physical height*. Healthy eating and exercising could add length to life, *but there is NOTHING we can do to ADD LENGTH TO OUR PHYSICAL HEIGHT*. Since anxiety cannot accomplish that, *we should also conclude that anxiety cannot accomplish anything good!*
4. **THINK – about the Beauty of Lilies:** ²⁷ **“Consider** [*literally, observe*] **the lilies, how they grow** [*watch them*]: **they neither toil** [*work*] **nor spin** [*move*], **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!”** // So the lilies *just stand there doing nothing*, and yet they have beautiful clothing! As God clothes them, *so He will certainly clothe all the people who are holy in His sight through Jesus!*

² ἡλικία, ας, ἡ—1. *age, time of life*. This sense is possible in Mt 6:27 = Lk 12:25...

—2. *bodily stature* Lk 19:3. This meaning... is probable for Mt 6:27 = Lk 12:25 (Bible Works, Gingrich).

5. **THINK – Your Father in Heaven will Provide:** 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 *[food and clothing]*, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ [But you] seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.”
- a. The average unbeliever: He lives with constant worries:
 - ✦ how will I pay for what I have bought,
 - ✦ how can I get even more, and
 - ✦ what will happen if I lose my job?
 - b. The one who believes in Jesus: He knows God will provide whatever he needs, so His focus is on
 - 😊 knowing God,
 - 😊 growing in God’s Word,
 - and 😊 honoring Jesus as Lord of his life!
6. **THINK – then be Faithful:** ³² “**Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom** *[it’s His gift to us through Jesus! Since we have the kingdom, as well as the promise of all that we need, such as food and clothes, we can be faithful!]*. 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.**”
- a. What is your treasure? Temporal possessions – *like food and clothes*, or eternal possessions – *like the Bible and faith in Jesus!*
 - b. Who owns your heart? *The god of this temporary world or the God who died for you?*

- i. Those who are dominated by the god of this world are 🗡️worried about their earthly stuff and 🗡️hoping to earn heaven with their words and deeds.
- ii. Those who know Jesus are confident that 😊God will provide their earthly stuff and 😊heaven is open to them through Jesus!
- c. Jesus challenge to believers: Since we know God will provide whatever we need, Jesus challenges us to *demonstrate our trust in Him by giving generously to the needy!*
 - i. Dr. Kretzmann noted this benefit: “**Then their hearts will be torn loose from all earthly considerations and will be fixed all the more easily and firmly on eternal riches**” (NT 1:336). In other words, we will no longer be distracted by earthly things, *freeing us to focus on heavenly things!*
 - ii. Jesus noted these benefits: Our treasure does not grow old – *like a computer*, does not fail – *like an old appliance*, and cannot be stolen – *like a car!*

Conclusion: Let us pray: Father in heaven, You have made us Your very own through Jesus and provide us with all that we need; thank YOU! Now, move us by Your Spirit to take Jesus’ challenge by ➡️dispersing what we have to those in need and ➡️treasuring the things that last forever!

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**