



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 64 “Anxiety Free Living Part 2” By Pastor Jody May

Luke 12:22-34 ESV

²² 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. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ 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! ²⁵ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶ If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷ 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. 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! 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, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

³² “**Fear not**, little flock, for it is your Father's **good pleasure** to give you the **kingdom**. 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.

Week 1 in this tri-series:

Jesus confronting in people the sin of **Covetousness**:

¹⁵ 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**.”

Coveting produces meaningless and a dead-end to your life, but following Christ produces and eternal life!



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I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. – **John 10:28 ESV**

And we should be aware that as we enter into this topic of living *Anxiety Free* today that Jesus is making the **connection between coveting worldly possessions and living a life filled with Anxiety**. That’s seen in the verse today by how he ends the discussion (v. 33) by what you are to do with your **possessions**; get rid of them and seek to build your home (where your heart is) in God’s Kingdom, to put your treasure there.

Week 2:

Mike started us off on this topic of **Anxiety Free living last week which begins to set us at odds with coveting**. We do this by **trusting in God’s Sovereign reign over your life**, (vs. 22-29) what He is providing for you. Then as a positive movement toward less Anxiety Mike helped us understand that we are to **work at SEEKING the Kingdom with all we have**:

³¹ Instead, **seek his kingdom**, and these things will be **added** to you.

And Mike gave this helpful way of looking at the Kingdom, in case that is an unfamiliar term to you or the thought of that is confusing.

What is the kingdom of God? – **Basileia (bä-sē-lā'-ä) (kingdom)** does not refer to a geographical territory but to a dominion or rule. God’s kingdom is God’s **sovereign rule. Seek out God’s rule for your life!**

Romans 14:17-19ESV

¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.

And that brings us to this week, to the main verse of these past three weeks:



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³² “**Fear not**, little flock, for it is your Father's **good pleasure** to give you the **kingdom**.”

In this final chunk of scripture today that leads us to an *Anxiety Free Life*; there are 2 things we are called to **surrender**, we are called to **believe** 2 things which will **empower us to do 1 spectacular thing** for a total of **5 points** this morning.

1. We are called not to fear. (vs. 22, 29, & 32)

³² “**Fear not**, little flock,...

²² ...“Therefore I tell you, do not be **anxious** about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on.

²⁹ And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be **worried**.”

Fear is a natural reaction, it's not necessarily a sin, and just like anger if we let it run away in our lives **we usually sin under its' influence**. **Fear** like anger is just a **notifier** that something is going on in your heart so take note there is something deeper there. With that being said the Bible is clear on how we should deal with it.

2 Timothy 1:7 ESV

⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of **fear** but of **power** and **love** and **self-control**.

The way to deal with fear is **not to give in and react** under its' control but to push through and act in the power of God, in love, in self-control. Fear is what made the Rich man tear down those barns in fear he would not have space to store his riches, obeying fear put him at odds with doing what was right, giving to God the extra for He had too much already.

But let's admit it Fear is hard to control, and you know why? Because many times it is associated with a memory of pain...

Illustration from the week with my Dr. visit. – Fear is a driver of ANXIETY!



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GOSPEL - The Lord being fully human endured fear just like us. Imagine on the night in the garden as He is reminded of all the painful emotional experiences of people rejecting Him, His understanding of physical pain living being in the flesh, then looking at the weight of dying on a cross. But Jesus masterfully transforms His mind by praying what is the summation of our existence, “Not my will but thine be done.”

So, when we are afraid don't be discouraged but remember your call is to endure through it, to test your faith, to pray through it, so that you to may discover what it is like to be under **God's sovereign reign and break away from Anxiety.**

2. We are called to surrender our earthly possessions.

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.

This verse speaks to two things, one, is Luke is sharing a story of the perception of how important Jesus thought it was **not to be tied down by worldly things**, especially in His day and time, when in fact the usher of the Kingdom was in front of you. That is a reoccurring theme in Luke. Secondly, what that **does not** mean is that we are off the hook for viewing our possessions in the same manner. **All Christians, actively involved in the Kingdom should be prepared to surrender their way of life, provide for those in need, and not be unencumbered by the things of this world.**

I also want to point us to the word **treasure - thesaurus**(thā-sau-ro's); *a storehouse or a place where your valuables are kept*. Jesus is building a comparison here, don't go building earthly barns to hold your stuff, like the Rich Fool, but use your stuff to build barns in the next world. **Use what God gives you to build what God wants!**

Notice that Jesus is not telling us to produce what you are putting into your treasuries just **make sure you are putting those safe-holds in an eternal place where they can't be destroyed. (Opposite of how the world does its'**



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treasuring!) Then God does what He always does, **He fills up** them up with what's to go in them. One of those things is your **eternal soul** as Jesus stated back in Luke 9:

Luke 9:23-24 ESV

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever would save his life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.**

We need to understand following Christ on mission is a start on building these **safe treasury places** and one of the things that God deposits in there **is our eternal soul.**

There is also the promise of receiving more in this life and the life to come.

Luke 18:29-30 ESV

Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

God makes a deposit in our new treasure holds with new purposes and a better life in future eternity. There is no future for those that reject this teaching.

Leave behind those desires to build up your earthly portfolio, hope chests, bank accounts, photo albums, display cases and instead take that which you put so much effort into keeping for yourself and invest it in some Kingdom work.

3. We must believe that His pleasure is to love us!

³² "**Fear not**, little flock, for it is your Father's **good pleasure** to give you the kingdom.

God does find His existence pleasurable, there is something that He delights in doing. If you're smart and believe in a God then it would be a good thing, a prudent thing, to understand what it is that God likes to do. According to our



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main verse here He like to give us the Kingdom, that is **He desires not to withhold from us the best thing in the Universe His REIGN and all that entails.**

Psalm 84:10-12 ESV

- ¹⁰ For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
- ¹¹ For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does he withhold
from those who walk uprightly.
- ¹² O LORD of hosts,
blessed is the one who trusts in you!

And it gets better for we were not able to walk uprightly, **the condition for living in His reign**, without the intervention of Jesus’ life and His love displayed!

Romans 8:32 ESV

³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will He not also with him graciously give us all things?

That Kingdom comes with all things, and Paul assures us that’s not lip service, but that it is a guarantee from the Father who gave **His Son as the way into the Kingdom so we could experience it.** We weren’t required to give up our first born but the Father saw it necessary to surrender His son that we may experience His rule. **It IS His pleasure to love us, believe it!**

God loves to share His glory through His Kingdom/ His Reign so that by the praise of our lips, the affections in our hearts, and a robust life of worship all may see the greatness in which He has loved His children, **it brings Him pleasure!**

4. We must believe that God wants the BEST for us!



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Is living in the Kingdom, under His rule the best plan for you? Is this truly the way to defeat Anxiety and Fear in your life?

Ephesians 1:3-6 ESV

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.

This Kingdom comes with no holdbacks you receive it with a full-benefits. Everything that makes you love God you get it and experience it in full. You will receive the same standing that Jesus has in front of His Father, in eternity, to be in front of a Holy God, experiencing a depth of love and acceptance you have never known **because you are BLAMELESS**, you have received Christ’s righteousness! You are not viewed ‘like’ a family member because God created you ‘to be’ His family before time, you have always been His child before time when He determined to spare you the wrath to come!

My family, you want to fight ANXIETY then **Believe** that our God loves you and wants the **best for you, to be adopted into His Reign**. Put your hope in this; it will be better than you can imagine when at last you are reunited with the one that makes life worth living!

5. Practice Anxiety Free Living by sharing your Treasure with others.

³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Heart - Kardia – the center of your soul. Do you share with people where your affections lie, where your hope and dreams reside? That will tell you a lot about yourself when you do.

I want to close with an example and a practical step for helping us all experience an Anxiety Free Life, to practice letting go and believing the Gospel...



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When we practice sharing with each other those things at the center of our affections people should see:

If we are too controlled by fear, if we are holding too tightly onto the things of this world, are we really believing that God loves us and wants the best for us?

Share with those in your community, your church life where your affections lie and allow them to **challenge you, confirm in you, and celebrate with you**, those treasures you’re building up in God’s eternal safe keeping. And then maybe we all can get a handle on the monster called Anxiety.

³² **“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”**

PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that does not like it when we are controlled by our fears, so He offers us all the benefits of Kingdom Life.

Go in the name of the Son, that shares the Kingdom with us through His work of conquering the fear of death.

Go in the name and the power of the HS that will show us where our hearts are and will help speak open and honestly when we share them with others.