

## Jesus, Money and Anxiety

### Luke 12:22-34

Jesus talks about money a lot. We try and divide money and faith. Jesus knows the human heart better than to do that. When we feel the challenge of Jesus challenge regarding wealth, we can become anxious: what does this mean for me? Jesus anticipates just such reactions and his response is: don't be anxious.

#### **Don't be anxious**

What we worry about can tell us a lot about what we value. If our security is in wealth and possessions and that gets undermined, we worry. So when Jesus challenges us not to lay up treasure on earth but to be rich toward God, we may have these anxious thoughts: 'but what if...?'. And Jesus says, 'don't be anxious.'

He gives us three reasons not to be anxious:

- ***That is not what life is about:*** if we are worrying about this stuff, we are missing the real point of life.
- ***Your Father knows and cares about your needs:*** At the heart of so much anxiety is the feeling that we are at the mercy of events. Wealth seems to offer us protection from that. Jesus is saying, no, you can know true security because your Father loves you.
- ***Worry doesn't work:*** We worry because we are concerned for our lives, but anxiety doesn't achieve what we hope it will. Rather than cure us, it kills us.

#### **Be different**

Jesus says all the nations – everyone else – lives with possessions and wealth as their focus, but our focus as disciples is to be different. Instead, we are to seek His kingdom.

But what will 'seeking His kingdom' look like when it comes to our finances? The answer is: joyful generosity.

#### **Giving runs in the family**

The very thing Jesus says we are to seek, the Kingdom, our Father is more than ready to give. God's giving of Himself to us lies at the very heart of the gospel. Jesus became poor for us, so that we might become truly rich in him. It is indeed the Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom. It's as we understand that, and grasp the fact that God is a giving God that we will find ourselves able, as Jesus says in v33, to sell our possessions and give to the needy.' Giving runs in the family.

And the joy of giving, Jesus says, is you're the one who gets rich. He tells us to provide ourselves with money bags, because we will receive treasure that will last. Earthly treasure will always let us down. One way or another we will part with our money. The only question is, when? At death or before? If we part with it before, we get to send it on ahead and transform it into eternal wealth. Keep it and it's food for moths. And it's because we can transform it into eternal treasure that we can give with joy.

All we possess is God's. You are God's money manager, and your heart will always be where you put his money. By God's grace, we still have time to transfer our wealth to the fund that never fails.