

Consider the Ravens: How Not to Worry

Text: Luke 12:22–34

Supporting Texts: Matthew 6:25–34; Philippians 4:6–7; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 5:7

Bottom Line:

Worry is a failure of attention, not a failure of faith.

Key Idea:

Jesus does not cure anxiety by telling us to try harder. He invites us to look longer at what is already true: the Father provides, the kingdom has been given, and our hearts follow what we treasure.

READ

Read **Luke 12:22–34** aloud.

Jesus speaks to anxious people. He tells them not to worry about life, food, body, or clothing. Then He gives them a practice: **consider**. Look carefully at the ravens. Look carefully at the wildflowers. If the Father feeds birds and clothes flowers, how much more will He care for His children?

The passage moves from worry to attention, from attention to trust, and finally from trust to generosity.

DISCUSS

1. What are you most tempted to worry about right now: money, children, health, work, the future, reputation, or something else?
 2. Jesus says life is more than food and the body more than clothes. What are some good things that can quietly become the way we measure our whole life?
 3. Why do you think Jesus tells anxious people to look carefully at ravens and lilies instead of simply saying, "Stop worrying"?
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COME AND SEE

Worry Divides Our Attention

Jesus' command not to worry is spoken to people who are already anxious. He is not shaming them. He is naming what anxiety does: it divides the heart between the present and a future we cannot control.

See also: **Matthew 13:22; Philippians 4:6–7; James 1:6–8**

Creation Teaches Us to Trust the Father

Ravens do not sow or reap. Wildflowers do not labor or spin. Yet God feeds and clothes them. Jesus' argument is not sentimental; it is deeply logical: if God cares for lesser things, how much more will He care for His children?

See also: **Job 38:39–41; Psalm 104:10–30; Matthew 10:29–31**

The Kingdom Has Already Been Given

The center of the passage is not a demand, but a gift: "Your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom." We seek first because we have already been loved first.

See also: **Romans 8:32; Ephesians 1:3–14; Colossians 3:1–4**

Generosity Reveals What We Trust

Jesus ends by talking about treasure. Generosity is not an unrelated moral add-on. It is the evidence that the Father's care has begun to loosen anxiety's grip on our hearts.

See also: **2 Corinthians 9:6–11; 1 Timothy 6:17–19; Matthew 6:19–21**

FOLLOW ME

1. Name Your Divided Attention

- What future are you trying to control in your mind?

- What do you keep checking, rehearsing, calculating, or imagining because it gives you a temporary sense of control?
- How is worry shrinking your ability to be present with God and others?

Reflect:

You cannot out-strategize anxiety. Where do you need to stop managing and start looking?

2. Consider the Evidence

Jesus tells us to look carefully at what the Father has already made and already done.

- Where have you seen God provide in the past year?
- What is one “raven moment,” a provision you did not engineer?
- What beauty, mercy, or care have you been too distracted to notice?

Practice:

Write down one concrete example of God’s provision. Let that memory strengthen your trust.

3. Receive the Father’s Pleasure

Jesus calls His anxious disciples “little flock.” That is tender, not dismissive.

- What would change if you believed God is not stingy, distracted, or reluctant toward you?
- How does Romans 8:32 deepen Jesus’ promise in Luke 12?

4. Let Treasure Re-Train Your Heart

Jesus says your heart follows your treasure.

- Where might God be inviting you to move one hour or one percent more of your income toward the kingdom?

Reflect:

You do not wait until your heart feels perfectly generous. You practice generosity, and your heart begins to follow.

GO AND BE

This week, do a simple **Treasure and Attention Audit**, then make one small kingdom shift:

- name a “raven moment” from the last year, where it is clear God provided for you,
- take one step of deeper, risk-generosity because the Father has already cared for you.
 - Trade an hour on your calendar from working on your own security to build his kingdom.
 - Take one small expense category in your budget and use it to build his kingdom: to St. Andrew’s, a ministry, or generosity toward someone in need.