Sermon Notes for October 15, 2017

**Putting First Things First**

Luke 12:22-34

Introduction

“Happy Days no more: Middle Class families squeezed as expenses soar, wages fall.”
Washington Post, April 2014

Here is the percentage of people who felt it was harder to:

- Pay for college – 77%
- Find good jobs – 74%
- Save for retirement – 71%
- Get ahead financially – 66%
- Afford health care – 64%
- Find decent, affordable housing – 54%

Life is a struggle, but what if you could take the anxiety out of it? What if in the midst of your trials, you could have peace?

I. Trust in God’s fatherly care. Verses 22-30

“Don’t worry about your life.”

Your father in heaven knows what you need and he will provide for you.

- Consider the ravens. How much more valuable are you than birds?
- Consider the lilies. If God cares for flowers, will he not care for you?

What good does worrying do? Will it add an hour to your life?

“Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come, why should my heart be lonely and long for Heaven and Home, when Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.”  His Eye is on the Sparrow by Civilla Martin

God loves us. He’s a good, good, Father.

II. Seek first his kingdom. Verses 31-32

The rich fool thought that life was all about money and possessions. Sadly, that is how many in our world live. “The pagans run after all such things.”

But Jesus says, “Seek his kingdom, (Put first things first!) and these things will be given to you as well.”
To seek first the kingdom is to place ourselves under his Lordship.

God wants to give you the kingdom.

- Jesus is *preparing a place for you*. John 14:6
- In that place, *there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain*. Revelation 21:4
- It will take all of eternity to show us the *incomparable riches of his grace*. Ephesians 2:7
- It is beyond our imagination. “*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived all that God has prepared for those who love him.*” 1 Corinthians 2:9

We are children of the King of Kings and we will reign with him forever.

III. Be generous. Verses 33-34

“*Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted.*”

Does Jesus want everyone to sell all of their possessions?

- Peter had a wife and a home in Capernaum.
- Lydia had a home in Philippi where a church met.
- To the rich young man, Jesus said go and sell what you have and give to the poor, because his wealth was the one thing holding him back. Mark 10:21
- It doesn’t seem to be a universal command for everyone.

Jesus is saying to all of us be generous. Don’t be like the rich fool trying to hoard his treasure on earth. Use your wealth in a way that will count for eternity.

- Storing up treasure on earth is a bad investment.
- Giving to the poor blesses those who are in need and it rids us of encumbering possessions.
- Our heart always follows our treasure.

If we can trust God to provide for us, then we can be generous.

The one who fears God and stores up treasure in heaven has nothing to fear!

Conclusion:

The way to overcoming our worry is to:

- Trust in God’s fatherly care.
- Put first things first - Seek his kingdom.
- Be generous. Store your treasure in heaven.