

REDISCOVER JESUS, PART 47: “DO NOT BE ANXIOUS”
LUKE 12:22-34
Ps. Jeffrey Susila

Personal Introduction

Hi everyone. If you don't know me, I'm Jeff. I'm a pastor at HMCC of Jakarta. And it's my privilege to be preaching the Word of God for us today.

Before we begin, please take out your own copy of God's Word and any note-taking material you need, whether physical or digital.

But if you're using digital devices, please turn off all notifications and put aside any distractions as best as we can, so that we can give our hearts and our full attention to the preaching of God's Word.

Sermon Series Introduction

We're currently in Part 47 of our sermon series called "Rediscover Jesus," where we're going through the Gospel of Luke together.

So let's get right into today's sermon: "Do Not Be Anxious"

Sermon Introduction

And even as I'm saying the title of today's sermon "do not be anxious," some of our minds are already thinking of all the things that we're anxious about.

But that's okay. Let's actually take time to list down some of the things that we're anxious about. If you have your note-taking material with you, please write those things down now. Just 1 to 2 things.

Let's ask ourselves: what is it that's been occupying our minds recently? What are we most worried about? What are the thoughts that are keeping us awake at night?

As we write down the things that are making us anxious, know that anxiety is not a new phenomenon. Even the first disciples of Jesus had anxiety!

And that's actually what we'll be looking at today. In today's passage, Jesus will address his 12 disciples' anxiety.

The One Thing

***Do not be anxious about our lives
for God is sovereign over our needs.***

Scripture Introduction

If you have your Bibles with you or if you have the Bible app, please turn to Luke chapter 12. Today, we'll be reading from Luke 12:22-34.

In the passage immediately before this, Jesus had just told the parable of the rich fool.

A couple of weeks ago, we learned that the parable is about a rich man who produced a lot of crops. And in his greed, he kept building larger and larger barns so that he could store more and more crops for himself. And that's so - in the end - he can relax, eat, drink, and be merry.

But unfortunately, this rich man was fooled by his greed. He thought that - by his own efforts - he could enjoy a long and prosperous life, and keep death away for many years. But then God basically said to him, "You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?"

And immediately after telling this parable, Jesus then turns his attention back to his disciples...

Scripture Reading

Let's read Luke 12:22-34.

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.

This is God's Word.

Overview

We'll look at this passage in two parts.

- I. We are bound to have anxiety due to little faith in God's provision (vv. 22-28)
- II. We can be free from anxiety by having little faith in God's sovereignty (vv. 29-34)

I. We are bound to have anxiety due to little faith in God's provision (vv. 22-28)

Verses 22-23 says this:

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.

Jesus starts off by saying "therefore." And this tells us that what Jesus is about to say next is directly related to what he had just said beforehand. And immediately before saying this, Jesus had just told the parable of the rich fool.

So I imagine myself being one of the 12 disciples listening to this parable. And naturally, I'd start comparing myself to this rich man from the parable. And I'd think, "I'm not like that rich man because I - and the other disciples - we left everything behind in order to follow Jesus."

But then as soon as I think that, I think I'll start feeling a bit of anxiety, and I'd think, "Oh yeah, I really did leave everything behind. I have no crops nor barns. I don't have a lot of money, nor food, nor a lot of clothes. Will I really be okay? Was following Jesus actually a mistake?"

And at this time, Jesus seems to know that his 12 disciples are getting anxious. And so he said to them, "do not be anxious about your life - whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear."

- And Jesus is saying this not as a command as in "do not - you're not allowed - to be anxious"!
- No. He's saying this gently as a way of comforting his disciples. He's gently telling his anxious disciples "don't be anxious."

Now, let's step back real quick. What is anxiety? Now even if we're not sure what "anxiety" actually is, more than likely, we've all felt a bit of anxiety before.

Anxiety is a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease. And we feel it when we're faced with something that has an uncertain outcome - we feel worried and uneasy because we don't know whether things will go our way or not.

And I think we all can relate with that, right? Haven't we all felt worried or nervous about "something" before?

And if we look back at what we wrote down earlier regarding anxiety, some of us might've wrote something related to:

- Financial security:
 - We're worried over the uncertainty of whether or not we'll have enough money.
 - Worried that we're not able to buy food, clothes, and other necessities for ourselves and our families.
 - Or even worried that we won't have enough to reach a certain lifestyle.
- Or maybe we wrote something about our career and job prospects:
 - We're nervous about the uncertainty of finding a job, or uncertain of our job's stability or we're not sure about the prospect of promotion.
- Or maybe we wrote about relationship concerns:
 - we're anxious about the uncertainty of finding a spouse and whether or not we could get married and settle down.
 - Or the uncertainty of maintaining healthy relationships with our family and friends.
- Or maybe we wrote something about our health: we're worried about the uncertainty of our and our loved ones' physical, mental, and spiritual health.

In general, we're anxious about these things because we're not sure whether the outcome would be in our favor or not.

- And this feeling of anxiety spreads quite easily, right?
- We can end up thinking about our worries throughout the day, and we can even lose sleep over it, maybe even losing our appetite, and we lose our peace of mind.

Naturally, we're anxious people. And why is that? Why are we so anxious all the time?

- It's because naturally, our sinful desire is to be in complete control of our lives - we desire to be our own gods and kings. And we want to build our own kingdoms - to gather more and more resources for our self-preservation.
- No one naturally desires to have a hard life full of uncertainties where food, water, clothes, and security are not sure things.
- We want to enjoy those resources that we've gathered so we can relax, eat, drink, and be merry.

So what do we end up doing?

- We try to control all aspects of our lives (as many variables as possible) to ensure that we have a comfortable life.
- So one thing we may try to do is to earn as much money as we can, and to gain as much resources and possessions and relationships as we can so that our kingdoms are secure.

But when we try to control everything, then what happens when something doesn't go according to our plans? When we face times of financial difficulty or when we lose our jobs?

- Then what we once thought was “certainty” becomes uncertainty, and it’s this uncertainty that makes us anxious.
- Because that uncertainty can jeopardize the perfect life we’re building for ourselves.
- And that uncertainty highlights our lack of control, and realizing that certain things are outside of control can make us even more anxious.

Deep inside our sinful hearts. We live with greed and anxiety. And greed and anxiety are two sides of the same coin.

- Our greed is telling us that what we have is not enough; never enough - we want more and more.
- And our anxiety is afraid that we may not have enough - so we worry more and more.

Now, Jesus addressed greed in the previous passage (through the parable of the rich fool), so he will now address anxiety.

But as followers of Christ, even if we’re experiencing anxiety, we shouldn’t be discouraged and feel like we’re the only ones struggling.

- Because here we see that even the first followers of Jesus struggled with anxiety. In their case, the disciples seem to be worried about the uncertainty of their livelihood and wellbeing.

But Jesus reminds them (in verse 23), don’t be anxious for life is more than food and clothing. Life is more than just trying to meet our basic needs; life is more than the anxiety that comes from thinking about our needs.

And so in order to comfort the disciples and help them understand that they shouldn’t be anxious, Jesus tells them to consider two things: ravens and lilies (now to us, this can seem a bit random, but to the disciples, these are two things that they can normally see around them).

In verse 24, Jesus says this:

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!

As Jesus is talking to his disciples, perhaps they could see and hear ravens flying in the air. And maybe Jesus points to the ravens in the air, and tells his disciples to take a moment to look and think about them...

Now to the Jews, ravens are considered unclean - not even worthy to be consumed as food. So they’re not thought of very highly. And Jesus even highlights how unimpressive they are.

First, ravens can’t sow nor reap - so they can’t plant and grow their own food. So that means that in order to survive, they need to depend on some outside source of food that’s out of their control.

And second, ravens don’t have storehouses nor barns, so they can’t even store food to ensure that they’ll eat the next day. So it’s not guaranteed that they’ll have food, and their survival is literally just day-to-day.

Yet Jesus highlights that God still feeds and takes care of these lowly creatures, giving them food to eat everyday through many different ways.

- Some days, God will feed them through small mammals on the field that they could hunt, other days it’ll be through berries on trees and shrubs, or through nuts and seeds that fall to the ground.
- The provision may vary, but surely, these hungry and unclean ravens are provided for by God.

So what does this have to do with us? Well, God also feeds us and provides for us each day through many different ways.

- Some days, He feeds us through the food we cook or the food we buy using the financial resources that He’s given to us.
- Some days, He may feed us through a family member who sends us some food, or through a friend who invites us to have a meal together.

- The provision may vary (and it may be different from what we expect), but surely, God provides for us in so many ways just as He provides for the ravens in so many ways.

But here's the difference, as those who were made in the image of God, how much more valuable are we compared to ravens? So how much more will God provide for us with our daily bread and our daily needs?

Unfortunately, most of us have a wrong view of God and of ourselves. We're quick to forget that God is our faithful provider, and we believe that we need to provide for ourselves. And when our ability to provide for ourselves is at risk, then we become anxious with our day-to-day survival.

Verses 25-26, then, say this:

²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?

Jesus then asks a rhetorical question. Who can extend one's life even by one hour by being anxious? Of course, the answer is no one.

But then notice how Jesus calls the addition of one hour to one's life as a "small thing." Isn't that amazing? That even adding one hour to our lives is considered a small thing for God.

For us, even extending our lives by one hour is an impossibly big thing.

- To extend our lives, we try to control many factors - we diet, we exercise, we go to the best doctors.
- There's a lot of different things that we do to try and optimize our health and our lives.
- And for us, the end result is not even guaranteed.

But it's such a small thing for God. Jesus is highlighting that there's such a big difference between us and God. God is all-powerful, but we're not.

God is the creator of the Heavens and the Earth, and master of all. He's all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present. He's more than capable of extending our lives - that's not beyond His power. In fact, that's a small thing for Him.

- This almighty God is the one who values us and is providing for us, as well as the ravens.

So then if God is our creator and our sovereign provider, then what reason do we have to worry about our wellbeing?

Jesus then gives his disciples the second thing to consider...

Verses 27-28 say this:

²⁷Consider 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!

As Jesus is talking to his disciples, perhaps there are lilies nearby and he points them out and tells the disciples to consider the lilies.

Lilies are a type of flower. Now, to the Jews, they don't necessarily need flowers to look beautiful. Because for them, dried grass and dried flowers were thrown into baking ovens as fuel to keep the fire in the ovens going.

- So in that sense, it wouldn't matter too much to them if the flowers were dressed beautifully or not. They'll be quickly gone anyways, they'll be burnt and be no more.

Yet to God, He still cared for these flowers, clothing them beautifully with so many different colors.

- The lilies themselves don't toil nor spin, so they can't make their own clothes. Yet God chose to clothe them so magnificently.

Even Solomon, son of King David - who was known as the richest king of his time - was not dressed as beautifully as the lilies.

- But then you are valued even more than lilies. So Jesus is highlighting - how much more then will God clothe you and provide for you?

Now, to us - on this side of redemptive history - we have a clearer picture than the first disciples did regarding how much more God will provide for His people.

Because yes, God will feed us and clothe us while we're on Earth. But there's more to life than that. Like the lilies, we're only on Earth for a short while - here today and gone tomorrow.

- But then what happens afterwards? There's eternal life that's to come - there's something so much more than our short life, and our worries, here on Earth.

But as sinners, what we deserve because of our sins is eternal punishment in Hell.

But God provides us with an overabundance of grace and mercy. He saved us from sin and death through Jesus Christ.

- Jesus is God's greatest provision and the best gift for His people. He died on the cross for our sins. He took on the punishment that we deserved as our perfect substitute.

So how much more does God value us?

- He values us so highly that He paid our debt through the blood of His one and only Son!
- So that whoever believes in Jesus as their Lord and Savior will not perish but have eternal life. That's how much we're valued by our sovereign God!

And how much more will He clothe us?

- Not only does He cover us with clothes, He covers us with Jesus' righteousness! We're cleansed by his blood that washed away our sins.
- So now when God sees us, He sees Jesus' righteousness instead of our greed and sinfulness. And we're counted as righteous in the sight of God.

And how much more will He feed us?

- He not only provides us with our daily bread but with the bread of life, Jesus Christ.
- And those who take in Jesus - who believe in him - as our Lord and Savior, will be saved and have eternal life.

So if we're asking, "how much more does God provide for us?" Then the answer is that He provides us with infinitely more than what we can imagine - not only with our temporary needs on Earth, but He provides us with our eternal needs - with the gift of salvation, eternal life, and a relationship with Him forever.

This is our sovereign, gracious, loving, merciful God. He loves us so much. He's already provided us with the best gift in Christ, so we can rest assured that He'll also provide us with everything else we truly need.

Yet our natural tendency is to not rely on our sovereign God, but it's to rely on our own limited understanding and capabilities.

Jesus says (at the end of verse 28), "O you of little faith!"

So after all that Jesus has said to address the disciples' anxiety, he then says, "O you of little faith!" So what does this tell us?

- The cause of anxiety is little faith in God - little faith in His sovereignty and grace. Little faith in how much God loves and values and cares for us, and provides for us.

What Jesus is saying is that whenever we're overcome with anxiety - deep down, it's really because we have little faith in God's sovereign and gracious provision.

- We're anxious because instead of having faith in God's plan for us, we try to carry out our own plans for ourselves, and we mistakenly believe that everything depends on our decision-making and capabilities. And that burden on ourselves makes us anxious.

But the end of the day, we all have "big faith." It just depends on where we put our faith. If we have little faith in God then that probably means we have big faith in something or someone else. Most likely, it's on ourselves and our own capabilities and resources. But when we do that, we diminish the power of the Gospel in our lives, and our little faith leads to more anxiety.

So first, "we are bound to anxiety due to little faith in God's provision." And second...

II. We can be free from anxiety by having faith in God's sovereignty (vv. 29-34)

Verses 29-30 says this:

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.

So as Jesus is talking to his disciples, he makes a distinction between two groups.

The first group is the "nations of the world." Here, Jesus is referring to the unbelievers around the world. This group of people is anxious and worried about what to eat and what to drink.

- This is what occupies their minds. Perhaps because to them, that's all there is to life - it's only about what's on Earth.
- So then it makes sense for them to mainly worry about those things that are of the world.

But notice that there's a second group - God's children. Look at verse 30, Jesus tells his 12 disciples that God is "your Father"? Your Father. So they're God's children.

- And for God's children, there's more to life than just what's on Earth. There's eternal life. And their God is sovereign.
- So it makes sense for them not to remain worried about their provisions and of the things of the world.

Now which group do we belong to?

For those of you who have not yet put your faith in Jesus, is this true? Do you spend your days worrying about your daily needs and are you overcome with anxious thoughts?

- Jesus is inviting you to put your trust in him - to surrender your burdens to the sovereign God who values you, who cares for you, and died for the sins of His people so that all who repent of their sins and believe in him as Lord and Savior may have true peace.
- If this is you, please tell others around you or come talk to me after our service, and we'd love to talk to you more about Jesus.

And for those of us who have already put our faith in Jesus, what are the things that we're now concerned about? Are we earthly minded or heavenly minded?

- Do we live as if this world is all there is, or do we live as those who know that we're just pilgrims in this world on our way to our heavenly home?
- If after putting our faith in Jesus, our worries and anxieties are still the same as those of unbelievers' then that should be concerning to us.

Again, don't be discouraged. This doesn't mean that followers of Jesus can never be anxious (I still get anxious too sometimes). But, as God's children, we don't remain anxious because we've been set free - as God's chosen people, we are made to be distinct - different from the other "nations of the world."

So as followers of Jesus, what are we to do instead?

In verse 31, Jesus says this:

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

So for followers of Jesus, instead of being bound by our worries and anxieties - instead, we're to seek God's Kingdom and when we do that, then "these things" - our true needs - will be added to us (which means that our true needs will be provided for).

Now let's try to dissect what Jesus actually means here step-by-step.

The first question that we may be thinking is: what's God's Kingdom?

- Well, God's Kingdom is not merely a physical location.
- Simply put, God's Kingdom is His sovereign rule over His people and over all things.

But then, next question: what does it mean to seek God's Kingdom? What does it mean to seek His sovereign rule?

So to "seek His Kingdom" means:

- To depend on God's sovereign provision for everything we need,
- And it's to surrender to God's timing (to trust in His plan instead of ours),
- And it's to trust in God's ways instead of our ways (to trust that He will provide for us, even if it's through some other means than we expect).

And now comes the important question: how can we learn to depend on God's sovereign provision? How can we learn to have faith in God's sovereignty amidst our anxieties?

One thing we can do is to ask ourselves these four questions:

1. What's making you anxious?
2. What are the things that fall under your responsibility?
3. What are the things that fall under God's sovereignty?
4. What does God's Word say about how He'll provide for your needs?

Let's do our own case study, and go through these questions together. Let's say there's a man named Adam (I don't think anyone here is named Adam. So let's use that name. But my apologies if your name is Adam).

But let's say Adam has been anxious about not having a job. He's not sure if he's ever going to get a job, not sure if he can get a good salary, and not sure if it would be enough to financially support him and his family. Let's go through these four questions together with Adam...

First, what's making you anxious?

- Let's acknowledge and name our anxiety first.
- So for Adam, it's anxiety related to not finding a job and not being able to financially support his family.

So second, what are the things that fall under your responsibility?

- It's important to note that one mistake that we can make is to expand our circle of responsibility, and start to take things that actually belong to God. And when we do that, that's what makes us anxious.
- So first, let's acknowledge the huge gap between our capabilities and God's capabilities, and let's do our best to actually list the things that actually fall within our responsibility.
- So for Adam, perhaps it's to: faithfully look for job opportunities, to apply to job openings, to prepare for interviews, to learn new things to be better prepared, and so forth.

- These things won't guarantee that he'll get a job, but as he's trying to be faithful with his responsibilities, it can put him in a better position to get a job.

Third, what are the things that fall under God's responsibility? (now these are the things that we usually try to control though it's out of our control. And that makes us anxious).

- For example, *when* Adam will get a job will actually depend on God's timing, *what kind* of job Adam will get will depend on the opportunities that God opens, *how much* salary will Adam receive will depend on how much God chooses to give and entrust to him.
- And Adam's overall wellbeing, and his family's overall well-being - that's all under God.
- These things depend on God's sovereignty.
- As God's children, our overall well-being is God's responsibility.
- And we can rest assured that God will fulfill His responsibility. He is our good Father who takes care of His children.
- That's the truth. And this is a good transition to the final question...

Fourth, what does God's Word say about how He'll provide for your needs?

- So one thing you can do is to list down God's truths that are related to your anxiety, and then allow God's Word to speak truth to you.
- God's Word says that He's always with you - He knows the situation that you're in, you're not alone.
- He will feed you and clothe you - He will provide for you, and He does not withhold good things from His children. He provides for the ravens and the lilies, how much more will He provide for you?
- And no matter what happens, God is sovereign; He's in control. He has created all of your days, and He's watching over you closely. He loves you.
- And He knows exactly what you need.
- Allow God's Word to comfort you...
- So don't list all these things quickly then move on. Pause and take time. Just as the 12 disciples took time to consider the ravens and the lilies. Take time to consider what God's promises mean to you.
- What we just went over was Adam's anxiety. But you can also do this exercise regarding your own anxieties related to your financial security, career, relationship, health, and other worries.

These four questions can help remind us that we're not the ones in control, but that God is. And acknowledging that helps us to surrender our worries and concerns to God *through prayer*. And as we list down the truths from God's Word - and as we're being reminded of His promises - allow Him to fill you with peace and comfort. For He will provide us with what we need.

When we rely on God's sovereignty for our provision then we will have true peace. It's true peace because it cannot be taken away. It does not depend on specific circumstances to go our way in order for us to maintain that peace.

- Because even when God has *not yet* provided for us, then we trust that God *will provide* us with what we truly need. Thus, our peace won't just go away because circumstances aren't going our way.
- But no matter what happens (good or bad), we trust that God will provide, and His promises give us comfort and peace.
 - Now this is true peace.
 - Compare this to the rich man from the parable. His peace and security is in his crops and in his storehouses and barns. But what happens when something happens to his possessions? What happens if his storehouses burn down? He will lose his peace and security.
 - And if his peace and security can be taken away so easily, can we really call that true peace and true security?

And what happens if God doesn't give us everything we desire? Being a follower of Jesus does not guarantee that we'll receive material wealth and good health and everything else that we desire.

But it does mean that God will provide us with what we truly need (not what we desire, but what we truly need). Now some of us may desire financial security and financial freedom. But God knows that what we truly need is actually much more than that - what we truly need is freedom from our sins; freedom from our greed and anxiety; freedom from the control of money in our lives.

And one of the ways that God transforms our view of our possessions, and one way that He frees us from our greed and anxiety, is by making us wait.

- He allows us to grow hungry. But He will feed us.
 - Just like the Israelites who were allowed to grow hungry when they left Egypt. But what happens? God fed them with manna.
- And it's to teach them (and us) to rely on Him and to remind us that our provision comes from Him alone.

And so when we're finally provided for, then we give praise to God in humility. We view our resources as belonging to God because He's the one who is providing us and entrusting us with these resources. We're only stewarding it for Him. And thus, our view of our resources will be transformed.

And once our view of our wealth and possession are transformed, then how should it affect the way we live?

Jesus will address this next...

Verses 32-33 then say this:

- 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.

Going back to our question: once our view of our wealth and possession are transformed, then how should it affect the way we live?

As those of us who are called to steward God's resources, we are to be generous with what we have. Verse 33 says that we're to give to the needy - we're to use our God-given resources to help others. So we are to give to others graciously and generously just as God has given to us so graciously and generously.

And when we do that, it's proof that we're not anxious about whether we'll have enough possessions. It's proof that we understand that there's more to life than what's here on Earth.

Such action proves that our treasure is not on Earth, but in Heaven - where we'll have true joy, true peace, and true comfort - true treasure that "does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys" (true treasure that cannot be stolen or taken away or destroyed).

For we will have eternal life in Heaven where there will be no pain and no suffering. Where we will be with our sovereign God and our brothers and sisters whom we love forever.

If that's what lies before us, then what use would it be to hoard earthly treasures that can be destroyed. For compared to knowing Christ as our Lord and Savior - compared to our eternal life in Heaven - everything else is like trash.

Our ultimate treasure is found in Christ and is Christ. Now is this true for us?

Verse 34 says this:

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

What you treasure shows what's truly in your hearts. No one can serve two masters - you cannot serve both the Kingdom of God and your own kingdom.

Trying to build our own kingdoms will lead to a life of anxiety and insecurity.

Instead, we are to seek the Kingdom of God - to look to God's sovereignty for all that we need - and everything else will be provided for us (both our temporary needs on Earth and our eternal needs in Heaven).

And when we see God as our sovereign provider, then our view of the world will be transformed. We will not be anxious and greedy over our resources, but we will be generous and gracious with our resources, just as God has been generous and gracious to us.

So what do you treasure the most? Where is your security? What are you afraid of losing and afraid of not receiving? What are the worries and anxieties that are often on the back of your mind?

God knows what's truly in our hearts. When we meet our Lord face-to-face, we don't want to hear him say, "O you of little faith." But we'd want to hear him say, "well done, good and faithful servant."

To help us with our next steps, here are a couple of life applications that we can do...

Life Application

1. Ask yourself these four questions:

- a) What's making you anxious?
- b) What are the things that fall under your responsibility?
- c) What are the things that fall under God's sovereignty?
- d) What does God's Word say about how He'll provide for your needs?

2. Reveal Jesus – Comfort others who are facing anxiety by pointing them to God's sovereignty

The One Thing

***Do not be anxious about our lives
for God is sovereign over our needs.***

Conclusion

If you're able, can we all stand as we respond to God's Word together?