

Have faith and seek God’s kingdom first.	I. <u>NATURE TEACHES US NOT TO WORRY</u> II. <u>YOU ARE TO SEEK GOD’S KINGDOM FIRST</u> III. <u>GENEROUSLY GIVE TO THE NEEDY</u>
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I. NATURE TEACHES US NOT TO WORRY → **vv22-23**

A. Growing up in south Louisiana, it is a very important that Jesus said in **v23**, “**Life is more than food.**”

1. In Cajun country, food can be an obsession.
2. It is a blessing that we can enjoy good food; however, God must be first in our lives— not food.

B. Jesus said that we are to consider the ravens to learn to trust God’s provision for us. →**v24**

1. J.C. Ryle wrote, “Now if the Maker of all things provides for the wants of birds, and orders things so that they have a daily supply of food, we ought surely not to fear that He will let His spiritual children starve.”¹
2. This is a logical argument from the lesser to the greater.
 - a. God cares for birds. Because you are of more value than birds, He will care for you.
 - b. To trust God for you food without stockpiling still takes faith.

C. Just as Jesus wants us to consider God provision for the ravens, He wants us to think about how His Father cares for the lilies of the field. → **vv27-28**

1. Lilies are a type of flowering grass. They don’t bloom long yet their flowers are magnificent. Jesus said, “**not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these**” (**v27**).
2. As God cares for this grass to clothe it so beautifully, He will also cloth you.
 - a. Here Jesus says that worry is caused from one’s “little faith.”
 - b. A great faith and trust in God will combat your worry.
 - c. Next time you worry about something, consider the name Abraham coined: “Yahweh Jireh,” meaning “**The Lord will provide.**”²

D. Remembering these two illustrations from nature, you shouldn’t worry about food, clothing, or even about how long you will live on this earth. →**vv25-26** “**And which of U by worryg can add a *single* hr to his life’s span? ²⁶If then U cannot do even a very little thing, why do U worry about other matters?**”

1. Seeing your doctor regularly, exercising, and eating a healthy diet can promote longevity.
2. Still, you can do everything in your power to promote health and still die from a drunk driver running a red light. Ultimately, none of us knows when God will call us to meet Him.

¹ J. C. Ryle, Expository Thoughts on the Gospels, vol 2: Luke. p. 78

² See **Gen 22:14**. This is the name Abraham gave for the place where God provided a ram to sacrifice instead of Isaac.

II. YOU ARE TO SEEK GOD'S KINGDOM FIRST → vv29-31

- A. When Jesus was speaking to Israelites as God's chosen people, His mention of **"the nations of the world,"** should be understood as the unbelieving nations of the world.
1. Your heart and mind are not set on God and His kingdom if you are always consumed with worry.
 2. To live like that is to live like an unbeliever who is void of faith.
- B. God wants you to put His kingdom, His worship, His honor, and His glory above all else.
1. If seek His kingdom first, He will care for all of your needs .
 2. Your loving heavenly Father cares for His children.
- C. In v32, Jesus gives reassuring comfort to all who are truly His sheep. →v32
1. If you are His by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's desire is to bless you, provide for you, comfort you, and keep you all for the sake of His kingdom and because He loves you.
 2. Just as reasonable earthly fathers desire to provide for and give good gifts to their children, so it is with our heavenly Father.
 - a. → Luke 11:9-13
 - 1) A key gift the Father gives His beloved children is the Holy Spirit to all who ask.
 - 2) In His gladly giving you the kingdom, He does this by opening you eyes, ears, heart, and mind so that you can receive and believe His Word.
 - b. In Jn 6:37, Jesus said, **"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out."**
 3. Adoption is a glorious doctrine that we ought to rejoice in!
 - a. If you have received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, God has given you the right, privilege, and great blessing of being His child.³
 - b. Your being given the kingdom mean that Jesus is your elder Brother.

III. GENEROUSLY GIVE TO THE NEEDY →vv33-34

- A. Some readers find this passage very difficult.
1. Dr. William Hendrickson wrote that if Christians sold all their possessions, "The result would be that that very soon the church would become a burden to society...[consider context] The Rich Fool... kept everything for himself. It is that selfish spirit which Jesus is here combatting."
 2. In v33, Jesus did not say that His hearers were required to sell all of their possessions.
 - a. If I sold all of my possessions, I would not have anything left to provide for my family. I would be transgressing what Paul said to Timothy: **"If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Tim 5:8).**
 - b. Jesus said that rather than hoarding your possessions, you should consider giving instead.
 - c. In a similar fashion, John the Baptist said, **"The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise" (Lu 3:11).**
- B. There are some valid arguments why some of us here are hesitant to give to others who ask for help.
1. We are increasingly faced with those who don't work yet instead work beg on the street corners.
 2. 2 Thes 3:10 says, **"if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either."**
 - a. Having this Scripture in mind, we much realize there are many working poor in America.
 - b. Many hardworking Americans cannot pay their medical bills and end up in bankruptcy.
- C. Christ said you ought to consider giving to those in need to acquire treasure in heaven.

Review, further application, and conclusion:

³ See John 1:11-13.