

Study Guide for October 20th, 2002. Series: Following Jesus. Luke 12: 22-34 Don't Worry - Have Faith

Introduction: When have you struggled with anxiety over the matter of basic necessities? How did God provide? Do you still wrestle with trusting God to provide the basics of food and shelter?

Throughout Jesus' teaching in this paragraph, he assumes that his followers are prone to worry and be afraid. His instruction is not merely to STOP WORRYING, but to CONSIDER... As Jesus' followers we are called to observe nature and life. Then we conclude certain truths about life and our Heavenly Father. This week, observe God's works in creation. Note how it helps you to build faith and decrease anxiety.

1. Observation #1 (vs. 22-24): Don't Worry! - Life is more than food and clothes.
 - A. How is life more than food and the body more than clothes?
 - B. Complete the following syllogism to appreciate Jesus' appeal to CONSIDER THE RAVENS:
1) Ravens do not _____ 2) They (ravens) have no _____ 3) God _____ So, 4) You _____
 - C. How does God provide for ravens? How do you think God will provide for his followers?
2. Observation #2 (vs. 25-26): Don't Worry! - Life is BEYOND your control to lengthen.
 - A. List five things (areas) which are totally beyond your ability to control.
 - B. What does Jesus want his followers to conclude by observing the limits of their control?
3. Observation #3 (vs. 27-28): Don't Worry! - God will clothe you in SPLENDOR.
 - A. What are your favorite flowers? Describe the beauty you see in them? How long do they bloom?
 - B. Why do you think Jesus describes his followers here with **little faith**?
4. Observation #4 (vs. 29-31): Don't Worry! - Instead seek God's Kingdom.
 - A. What does Jesus say the pagan world runs after? What do you find yourself running after?
 - B. Complete the following sentence based on vs. 30 - 31, "Your Father in heaven . . ."
 - C. What is one thing that needs to change in your life if you are going to seek God's kingdom more intentionally?
5. Observation #5 (vs. 32-34): Don't Worry! - Be generous.
 - A. Confident that God will supply all their needs, what does Jesus instruct his followers to do?
 - B. What does Jesus promise for his followers who trust him to the point of being generous?
 - C. Complete the following: "For where your _____ is, there your _____ will be also."
 - D. What steps can you take to see that your heart is where it should be?