

Jesus and Anxiety

Introduction

Church Update

Speakers/Lights/Stage/Kiosks/Storage Room/Admin Assistant

If you have your bibles... We did get some new speakers and lights. We added a backdrop to our wall, and some kiosks in the lobby, we gave our sanctuary a bit of a facelift. We hope you love what we have done, but even if you don't, I want to talk a little bit about why we did them.

- Share our identity
 - Driven by God's word (Preached & Believed)
 - Discipleship oriented
 - Extremely relational
 - Multigenerational - We seek to be a church that everyone can enjoy. (no fog machines, not a concert, We are a singing church!)
 - Video ministry (majority of people who come to Celebration church, will check us out online first)
 - The only stumbling block we want to place in front of people is Jesus Christ Himself.
 - If people are leaving or turned off for other reasons (even worldly reasons) we want to do our best to reach them.
 - 1st Corinthians 9:22 - I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.
- I promise you a few things... We have not gone woke, we have not gone seeker sensitive, we have not changed any of our theology.
- But still, if you have some anxiety I totally understand. Good news, our text this morning speaks directly to that!

Luke 12:22-34

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.

Context/Story

- Last Week we talked about the fool who spent his entire life building bigger barns to hold all his stuff only to die before he could enjoy any of it. Today's message is connected to last weeks. ,
- Jesus is telling us how to handle our fears and anxieties in life.
- Anxiety is a part of the human condition. We are not in control.

What do you Fear?

1. Explain
 - a. Everyone fears something. What do you fear? Do you fear sickness? Do you fear death? Do you fear drowning? Do you fear burning? Do you fear public speaking? Do you fear being single? Do you fear not being able to have children? Do you fear heights? Do you fear unemployment? Do you fear Spiders? Do you fear being alone? Do you fear what people think of you? Everyone fears something. Most of us fear several things.
 - b. Jesus Feared nothing, and he said to his followers. “Fear not”.
 - i. **“FEAR NOT” This is the most frequently uttered command in the whole Bible. sixty-six books of Scripture, and you pull out every single command, the one that is repeated most frequently is fear not**
 - c. This gets to the heart of what fear is!
 - i. Definition: Fear is our response to danger that is either real or perceived.
 1. Melissa after Levi was born. Extreme postpartum anxiety.
 2. Fear can be either rational or irrational
 - a. Claustrophobia
 - b. Fear of clowns
 - i. I don't care if you have this fear or not, if you see a clown after midnight they're scary. That's a clown up to no good.
 - c. Homilophobia - Fear of sermons - “That's why I am never coming back to celebration church, I have a fear of sermons”
 - d. I believe fear is based on one of three things
 - i. Not getting what you want - Education, job, promotion, early retirement.
 - ii. Getting what you want but then losing it. - Divorce, Pregnant, Fired
 - iii. Getting what you don't want - Cancer.
 - e. Prove
 - f. Proverbs 12:25 - Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.

- g. 1st Corinthians 7:32a - I want you to be free from anxieties.
- 2. Apply
 - a. Anxiety does not help us at all (vs 25-26)
 - b. But it does reveal our values, our loves, our priorities, and our longings
 - c. **Every fear is an opportunity to either run to or from God as the source of our comfort, hope, and help**
 - i. Running from God in fear
 - 1. What does this look like? We try to minimize our risk. Doing everything we can to control our surroundings.
 - a. Did you know car seats expire?
 - b. We buy insurance
 - i. The insurance market in America is larger than the next 10 countries combined.
 - 2. The problem is that no matter how much we try to control our world, we are simply not in control. We don't get to decide who gets covid, we don't get to decide how others will drive on the road, we don't get to decide the direction of the stock market. We are not in control.
 - ii. Running to God in fear
 - 1. He is the one truly in control!
 - d. Why? Because...

God is our Provider

- 1. Explain
 - a. Ravens - Nasty animals, Scavenger birds, nobody has a pet raven...
 - i. They have no farms, they store up no food. Yet God feeds them.
 - b. Lilies - Clothes
 - c. We have been promised enough. Food for the day,
 - i. Exodus 16 - Israelites were given manna from heaven, but only enough for the day. If they took more than they needed to try to keep it for the next day it would be full of maggots and rot.
 - 1. Descriptive story not prescriptive, Im not saying you should throw out all your food, or God will put maggots in your pantry
 - 2. but it is clear that God wanted His people to recognize that He was their provider.
 - d. We try to take this role from God far too often.
 - i. God is our provider, our firm foundation, our solid rock. We are not.
 - 1. Who provides for your family? Not the husband, not the wife. GOD
 - ii. He's not saying, "Be irresponsible," but he is saying, "Be reasonable." **If you are trying to predict the future and control it, you are trying to be God.**
- 2. Prove

- a. Philippians 4:6 - do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- 3. Apply
 - a. The Sovereignty of God plays a huge role in this
 - i. Remember the definition of fear?
 - 1. Fear is our response to danger that is either real or perceived.
 - ii. If God is truly in control, AND He is for us, It means that everything we experience, can be understood in light of His promise
 - 1. Romans 8:28 - And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.
 - b. Have Faith!
 - i. Are you his? Gospel!!!!
 - c. Be Content!

Godliness with Contentment (31-34)

- 1. Explain
 - a. Seek first the kingdom of God.
 - i. That is what we aim to do
 - b. We don't seek bigger barns to store our grain. We don't seek to control our future, we don't seek to guard against every type of inconvenience in our lives. We don't seek to keep up with the Jones'. We don't seek to retire at 55. We don't seek a comfortable life!
 - c. WE HAVE A MISSION TO ACCOMPLISH CHURCH. And every resource, every dollar, every moment of every day, has been given to you to steward well in accomplishing the mission of God. What is the mission? Build the Kingdom of God. Not build the kingdom of Brandon, not build the kingdom of Larry, or Sarah. Build the kingdom of God.
- 2. Prove
 - a. 2nd Corinthians 5:20 - Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
- 3. Apply
 - a. Our spending grows to match our income.
 - i. **What if we set a cap on our lifestyles?** What if we got to the point where we could draw a line, saying "This is enough, and I am giving away everything I have or ear above this line."
 - 1. John Wesley did exactly this.
 - a. At one point, Wesley was making the equivalent of about \$160,000/yr but was living as if he were making \$20,000/yr
 - b. What would it look like if we did the same?
 - b. How much is enough? How much do we need to have to be satisfied?
 - i. David Platt quote - "This passage begs the question, am I willing to live a life that is content with Food and clothing, having the basic necessities of

my life provided for? Or do I want more? Do I want a bigger house or a nicer car or better clothes? Do I want to indulge in more and more luxuries in my life?"

Where your Treasure is, There your Heart will be Also (Conclusion)

Church, we are tempted sometimes to throw our scraps to God. But I don't want to be blind to the temptations of the american dream. I don't want to pursue stuff and in the process miss Christ. The way we spend our money is a barometer of our spiritual condition. The mark of Christ followers is that their hearts are in heaven, and their treasures are spent there.

Josiah Slivkoff - Benediction Prayer



Luke 12:22-34 Jesus and Anxiety

INTRODUCTION The gospel has the power to save and transform our lives but it must land on receptive hearts. We are reminded in the Parable of the Sower that if our hearts are not tender then the gospel will not take root.

DISCUSSION

- What do you worry about most?

EXPLANATION

- Is fear sinful? Why/Why not?
- What does it look like to trust God above our circumstances?
- When something goes wrong, how does the sovereignty of God help us? How might it harm us?(blaming God)

APPLICATION

- If somebody were to observe your life for a week—how you spend your time, what you do with your money, who you hang out with—what would they say your priorities are?
- Do you find it more difficult to be generous with your money or your time? Why?
- What are some unhealthy motivations for giving? (Pride, Guilt)

THE 5 W's (broken up into gendered groups)

- Word (How have you gotten into the word this week?)
- Wife/Husband/Family (How are you doing with your spouse/family?)
- Wellness (What are you doing to take care of yourself?)
- Work (How are you handling the work God has given you?)
- Witness (Who have you witnessed to, or prayed for this week?)