

## “At The Heart of Giving: FAITH”

Luke 12:22-34

“FAITH” is the soil in which “giving” grows best.

How can we apply “faith” to our personal responsibility to provide the needs for our family?

We face 2 challenges when we want to live by FAITH

### 1. ANXIETY

### 2. FEAR

In Luke 12:22-34, Jesus encourages His followers to face both challenges so that we can discover how to connect FAITH with our giving.

## I. OUR ANXIETIES (22-31)

1. “Worry” 4X (not just a 21<sup>st</sup> Century condition!)
2. Typical targets of worry
  - life, food, health, clothing (22)
  - life-span (23)
3. God’s care for flowers and birds assures us of this care (24,27)  
“How much more valuable are we! (24, 28)

### “FAITH” confronts our ANXIETIES

- Faith comes in degrees
  - “little faith” (28) cf Luke 17:6
  - “great faith” (Matt. 8:10)
- Faith grows with use
  - “Lord, increase our faith” Luke 17:5
- Faith is a “kingdom-priority”
  - Seek His kingdom (31)

## II. OUR FEARS (v 32-34)

1. Do not fear! (32)
  - Why? - God is SHEPHERD – little flock
  - God is FATHER – wise provider
  - God is KING – kingdom resources
2. Tests of your trust (33)
  - Sell possessions and give to the poor.
  - Invest in heaven's treasures, no fear of devaluation, market crashes, economic uncertainties

IS THIS A STANDARD FOR ALL TO FOLLOW?  
or A STATEMENT to STARTLE us to react?

“FAITH” confronts our FEARS and gives our God the opportunity to fulfill His promises.

### ASK OURSELVES

1. What is the #1 “WORRY” in my life?
2. What is the #1 “FEAR” in my life?
3. If God promises His care, how can I better demonstrate a life of “FAITH”?