

Monday. October 9<sup>th</sup>

Luke 12:15-34- <sup>15</sup>“And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ <sup>16</sup>Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup>And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” <sup>18</sup>Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” <sup>21</sup>So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

22 He said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup>For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup>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! <sup>25</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>26</sup>If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? <sup>27</sup>Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>28</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! <sup>29</sup>And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. <sup>30</sup>For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup>Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

32 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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Have you ever felt insulted by the headings above different sections of Bible verses, because I just did. In my Bible, this story is titled the "Parable of the Rich Fool", and I don't know about you, but I don't like being called a fool. But maybe I should be, because there are certainly times that I act way more like the man in this passage than I should. This passage is Jesus' way of describing how money can pull us away from God, playing on our fears of not having enough. For many of us, that is one of our greatest fears, that we won't have enough money to care for ourselves and our family, or a fear that we won't be able to live the lifestyle we are comfortable with. And so, we become like, there has to be a better name for him, Rich Man who doesn't make the best decisions. (That hurts a little less). We make more and more, and save more and more, but give at the same amount.

But in reality, the issue here isn't that we really love money and love the things of this world. The heart of the matter here, and Jesus hits the nail on the head, is that we struggle to truly believe that God will give us everything we need. Our worry and anxiety are really caused by a lack of faith. The words of Jesus in verse 32-34, are really challenging, and they are meant to be. I believe it is this fear that becomes one of the greatest forces of gravitational pull that keeps us from taking flight. I know that it has been in my life, as I am constantly battling this fear to keep and store and worry about tomorrow. So, let's listen to those words of Jesus on more time, but this time imagine as if

Jesus was speaking directly to you, picture His face, hear His voice, and allow your heart to be shaped by His words.

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Questions:

1. When do you feel this fear the most? What drives your worry about money?
2. How can you learn to trust in Jesus more to provide for you?