

AUGUST 7, 2022 SERMON

TEXT: LUKE 12: 22-34

THEME: GOD'S PROMISE FOR YOU

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.

In the name of Jesus:

Jeff Williams is an astronaut. . If you don't know Jeff Williams, you should. He is a member of a LCMS congregation in the Houston Texas area. He wrote a book which was published by Concordia Publishing House back in 2010 titled: The Work Of God's Hands. Jeff Williams took pictures of earth when he was orbiting the earth in the International Space Station. Jeff Williams is a man of great faith.

Jeff believes in Jesus, he believes that God so loved the world that He sent His only Son to ransom the world from sin, Satan, and death. When Jeff orbited the earth in the Space Station, he trusted in God to provide for him what he needed on the Space Station. Actually, when Jeff was flying he believed God would provide for him all of his needs through NASA.. NASA would send a supply ship up to the Space Station every so often, so that everyone on the Space Station will be taken care of. They will have all they need, in

food, water, and other provisions. These astronauts don't worry, they trust that NASA will send the ship and deliver what they need.

Even as the astronauts don't worry, God tells you not to worry. That is Jesus' promise. Jesus says: **"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!"**

But Houston, we have a problem! The problem is that even though God provides, we don't trust in Him to deliver. Instead of trusting in God, we worry, we fret, we complain about what we don't have. Listen to what the Bible says about worry, and that value of worry: **"25 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life."** Worry doesn't change a thing. When you worry, what you are doing is replacing God with your worry, rather than trusting in Him, you think that He can't or won't provide, that He won't answer your prayer. So Jesus reminds us: **"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.”

God loves you with an everlasting love. He knows your needs before you do. Jesus says “fear not little flock, for it is the Father’s good pleasure to give you His kingdom. If God has given to you the kingdom, won’t He give you everything else you need?”

God has made you a member of His Kingdom in the waters of Baptism. .You belong to Him. So have no fear! **Have no fear, for you belong to God! Have no fear for God has made you His child in Holy Baptism. Have no fear, for in Christ your sins are forgiven. Have no fear, for your sins are cast away as far as the east is from the west. Have no fear, for nothing will separate you from the love of God which is yours in Christ Jesus. Have no fear, God is for you, not against you. Have no fear, for God’s promise to you is that He loves you, will always love you, and He will work all things out to your good and His glory for He has called you to be His child in Jesus. And so if God has done all this for you, will He not also give you everything you need? It is a rhetorical question. The answer is a resounding YES!**

So what are you to do in times of need? Pray! Pray, praise, and give thanks to God, for He is your ever present help in times of trouble. Don’t be anxious about anything but make your needs known by prayer and supplication. Pray that God’s will be done. Pray that His kingdom comes, that many more people will repent and believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

I recently came across a story about a man by the name of Jake Booth. Jake is thirty five years old and he was going through a difficult stretch. An Army vet, Booth had contracted a nasty case of double pneumonia and then he had a heart attack. Between the

pneumonia and the heart attack, he went into a coma. Booth stayed in that coma at a Tampa, Florida, hospital for 48 days.

But on day 48, almost "miraculously," according to the United Press International, Booth awoke. Unlike many in his situation, he had no difficulty recognizing family or knowing where he was or any of the other details of his life.

Almost immediately Booth began to speak. Speaking was a difficult thing for him to do since, while he had been in his coma, it had been necessary to fit him with a tracheotomy tube. Even so, as soon as Booth could communicate, he put in a request for ... well, you will never guess what he asked for!

You would think that he would ask for something life changing, something meaningful, or say something important. But no, Booth asked for ... Taco Bell! He couldn't get everything out that he wanted to say in one sentence, but the request he made, after being at death's door, was for an order from Taco Bell! Now let me ask you, when you stand at the gate of heaven, and are about to address your Maker, are you going to be thinking about Taco Bell? Where will your priorities lie?

The Bible says: "You do not have, because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions." (James 4: 2-3). May God teach you to seek and pray rightly, not making your earthly desires your goal, but to pursue the gifts that God gives freely in Jesus. For this is what it means to seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness, and trust in God to take care of all that you need. Because that is God's promise, to take care of you.

To the glory of God and in Jesus' name.

Amen