

**Sermon Text:** Luke 12:22-34 Treasure Christ

**You can combat anxiety because your heart is in Christ (12:34).**

- “Where your treasure is”—Is the stewardship of your life (health, wealth, time) invested primarily in personal advancement or in love for God through loving others?
- “there will your heart be also”—The substance or essence of your life will either be restricted to the confines of self, ever diminishing, or invested in the vastness of God’s kingdom and human need, ever flourishing.

**1) Because your heart is in Christ your security is not found in the abundance of possessions (12:22-23).**

- a) What is life? What is “the good life”?
- b) Because life is “more than” worldly survival and prosperity, contentment, security, and happiness in “food and clothes” and such things is a futile pursuit that only finds anxiety.
- c) Treasuring Christ, your heart—the substance of your life—is in heaven with Him.
- d) “Seek His kingdom” (12:31a)—live under His authority; operate out of His objective, absolute value system; keep His commandments; know Him and love Him
- e) “and these things will be added to you” (12:31b)—God does not deal with us as disembodied spirits, but as whole persons

**2) Because your heart is in Christ you can trust your Father’s care (12:24-30).**

- a) “Consider the ravens/lilies”—see how God cares for them as they carry on as birds/lilies were created to do
- b) Not “imitate the ravens/lilies.”
- c) “Of how much more value are you than the birds!”—Your life is highly valuable to God.
  - i) Humans are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27).
  - ii) Christians are being renewed after the image of God in all knowledge, holiness, and righteousness (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10).
  - iii) Christ bought you at the cost of His own death (1 Cor. 6:19-20).
  - iv) God appoints humanity over His creation in which He delights (Psalm 8:4-8).
  - v) Christ calls you by your name (John 10:3).
- d) “even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these”—true glory is not found in all the exercises of human wisdom and might, but in resting in God’s provision in Christ
- e) “Do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried.”—Don’t make physical security your highest aim in life.
- f) “For all the nations of the world seek after these things”—The Gentile nations, who did not acknowledge the true and living God, could not look to their false gods for provision, so they busied themselves with survival.
- g) “and your Father knows that you need them”—Notice that in Christ God is “your Father.” He knows you and your needs.

**3) Because your heart is in Christ you can hope in your Father’s kingdom (12:31-32).**

- a) “Fear not, little flock”—You are God’s flock, a little flock with a great and good Shepherd.

- b) “for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom”—Kingdom Present & Kingdom Future:
    - i) Kingdom Present—The Kingdom of God has been inaugurated with the first coming of Christ. He presently sits at the Father’s right hand as the ruler over all things (Ephesians 1:20). Yet, His reign is still contested on earth. He is systematically putting His enemies under His feet (1 Cor. 15:25).
    - ii) Kingdom Future—The Kingdom of God will be consummated at the second coming of Christ. All His enemy power will be destroyed. All His enemies, including death, will be under His feet. And He will deliver the Kingdom over to God the Father so that God may be all in all (1 Cor. 15:24-28).
    - iii) We enjoy the present reign of Christ over us, even though we still face conflict in this life. The peace of God keeps our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:7). We have the sure hope of the Consummation of the Kingdom, in which God will dwell with us and make all things new in His love (Rev. 21:3-4).
  - c) Kill anxiety at the root by remembering that because your heart belongs to Christ you can hope in your Father’s kingdom.
- 4) Because your heart is in Christ you can love others as a heavenly investment (12:33).**
- a) “Sell your possessions, and give to the needy”—12 disciples literally; all called to Christ-like generosity
  - b) “Money bags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail”—Divine love
  - c) Where is your treasure? Where is your heart?

**Doxology:** I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable. (Psalm 145:1-3)