

Proper 14C – August 7, 2022

Luke 12:32-40

Think...

There's a lot to be afraid of these days. At least that's what social media, the news, and other people tell us. COVID is lingering with the current variant even more contagious. The war in Ukraine hasn't stopped anytime soon. Even though gas prices are falling, inflation isn't. Mass shootings happen daily.

And that's not even thinking about the more personal fears: is my kid going to make it out of Middle School without too much bullying? Am I going to get let go from my job? Is mom going to need to go to a care center? Is there someone who will love me for me? What do I do about being lonely? So much to fear, worry about, or cause us anxiety.

That's why it's remarkable good news to hear what Jesus says in the beginning of our text. *"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."* Do not fear. While a command, this saying is attached to a promise: God gives us the kingdom. God delights in giving to us.

We don't have to work for it. We don't have to perform for it. We don't have to do anything to get it. God simply gives it to you because God wants to. God takes pleasure in gift-giving. It's just who God is.

So that's at least one thing in this world you don't have to be afraid of – you are eternally secure. God has given you the kingdom and there's nothing that can take it away.

Read...

Read Luke 12:32-40 in an appropriate Bible or translation for your group. We suggest the Common English Bible (CEB.)

Talk...

Simple Questions

1. What makes you afraid? Does Jesus telling you not be afraid help at all? Why or Why not?
2. If you were to make a purse/bag for yourself, what would it look like?

Intermediate Questions

1. How does one wait actively?
2. How would you feel if Jesus started to serve you?

Tough Questions

1. If you were to look and see where you spent most of your money, where would that be? Why?
2. What do you think about Jesus comparing himself to a thief (v. 39)? What does that say about him?

Do...

Keeping lamps lit was active work back in the day when wicks had to be trimmed and oil restocked in lamps. If it wasn't done, the light would sputter out in the middle of the night. Now we just flip a switch and a light comes on. This week, take some time pray by first lighting a candle. Ask God, "How do you want me to actively wait for you?"

Pray...

Gracious and Loving God, we trust in your promise of Grace and life. Help us to live in active waiting, showing the world what the Kingdom will be like. AMEN.