

A Modern Day, Non-Biblical, Rendering (Luke 12:22-34)

God, the One who created you and everything that is or ever will be; God, who creates all that is in your world, who engineers every circumstance you find yourself in, says:

'Stop worrying about your life, how much money you have or the things you want. For your life is far more important than what you have, what you do or what other people think of you. Do you need proof? Ok, let's take a moment and think about the ravens: they don't work for a living, they are not trying to prove themselves to anyone; they don't save money for a rainy day or have retirement accounts; in fact, they don't really do anything at all! And, despite all their apparent lack of industry, God takes care of their every need. Not just some of their needs, but every one of their needs. Now, if God would do that for a raven, just think how much more He wants to do for you. After all, He considers you much more valuable than a raven (you see, both you and God consider yourself much more valuable than a raven).

Let me ask you a question, you spend a lot of your time thinking, pondering, planning and worrying about your future, but what good has it done you? Talk about a waste of time! Can worrying do anything? Can it accomplish anything at all? Will it change your circumstances? Will it help you in any way? No, so why do it? It's a total waste of your time and energy. I know, you are use to it. You find comfort in it; after all, it gives you the illusion that you are somehow in control of your circumstances. But here is the dirty little truth: you are not. In fact, your worrying has absolutely no impact on what is going to happen. Let that one soak in for a moment. It's true, you know its' true. But what can you do? Do you want to worry about this too? Let's move on...

Ok, enough about birds! How let's think about flowers. Where do they come from? Who created them? Did you? Did they somehow just "happen"? Of course not, God created them and look what an amazing job He did! Now, if He can do that for a plant, don't you think He is capable of doing an amazing work in you? Don't you think that if He has the ability to make the flowers so beautiful, that He can do the same when it comes to your needs and desires? Why do think He won't do these things for you? Is it because you have gone through hardships? Is it because you have experienced loss, rejection and pain? Is it because people have deeply disappointed and hurt you? You of little faith, don't you know that God sees these things and wants to come to give you the love, healing and restoration you need because of what you've been through?* And instead of believing that He wants to love, heal and give you exactly what you need, when you need it, you believe that He is a difficult God; a God who cannot be totally trusted. Because of your unbelief, you compensate by trying to give yourself things, pleasing others so they will think well of you and doing the things you want to do when you want to do them. If you would only stop trying to get these things and turn your heart, soul and mind to loving and seeking God. If you did this, He would take care of you in ways that you cannot begin to imagine. He would not only give you the things you need, He would give you the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control that you have always dreamed of! He will give you so much abundance that you will not be able to contain it all: it will literally overflow from you to the lives of those around you. And, guess what? That will bring you even more joy! Are you getting the picture?

So, here is the bottom line: stop being afraid. Why? Because the Creator of everything that is or will be, the One who is creating your circumstances wants to draw from His unlimited

resources to give you everything you could ever need, want, desire or imagine. So don't hold onto the things you have, the opinions of others or what you think you must do in order to get by. Let go of your unbelief that He will fail you, leave you, discard you or forsake you. Stop believing that He is not your helper. The most important thing you must understand is that He is not only your constant helper, but He knows exactly what you need and when you need it. He is with you right now as you are reading this and He will never, ever leave you. Yes, it's true you can trust Him with the details of your life. Every detail. That is not a call to be lazy, that's a call to seek God with all your heart, soul and mind: that is what it means to trust Him. When you do establish this trust, you will want to give to others who do not have what you have been given. Give to them, for when you do, you will be building up a saving account that no one can ever steal from you. You will be building a retirement account that will bring you eternal joy. Think about that concept: 'eternal joy'. If you can think of anything that will bring you more pleasure, joy and peace than that, let me know!

*You may ask yourself, 'But why did He allow me to go through these painful experiences?' Perhaps, by suffering, He has given you compassion for others who are also suffering. Perhaps there was no other way for you to develop that compassion other than experiencing that pain yourself. Perhaps the joy and pleasure of healing others who have suffered just as you have, will bring you more pleasure, joy and fulfillment than you could have experienced otherwise. Perhaps we will not know the real reason until we meet Him face to face. But here's what we do know: He, who was blameless, suffered for our sins and transgressions. He suffered the humiliation and the agony for

our freedom. He suffered for the joy and glory set before Him. Couldn't the same be true for us?).