

**How Much More
Luke 12
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Big Idea: Fear and anxiety fade when we put our trust in our heavenly Father and seek his kingdom.

I. The Crisis of Modern Anxiety

- **The Rise of Anxiety:** Society faces a spectrum of anxiety, from "weather anxiety"—caused by information overload and fear of the unknown—to "deadly serious" mental health crises.
- **The Anxious Generation:** Social scientist Jonathan Haidt notes a sharp plunge in mental health starting in the early 2010s, with rates of depression and suicide more than doubling among young people.
- **Story/Illustration: The Transition of Childhood.**
 - The shift from a "play-based childhood" to a "phone-based childhood" has led to "spiritual degradation" for both children and adults.
 - **The ChatGPT Illustration:** A viral trend in 2025 asked AI how the devil would destroy a generation without them knowing. The response: Not through violence, but through **convenience, distraction, and the slow erosion of meaning**.
- **The Antidote:** Moving from an inward focus on ourselves to an upward focus on God.

II. The Warning: The Danger of Material Trust (Context)

- **Scripture Reference:** Luke 12:13–21 (The Parable of the Rich Fool)
- **The Definition of Covetousness:** Greed is a "disordered desire" to acquire more possessions regardless of actual need.
- **The Rich Fool Example:** In the parable, the man refers to himself 11 times in just three verses, providing an "ugly picture of pride and selfishness".
- **The Core Lesson:** Material things are a "wonderful servant" but a "terrible master". Life does not consist of the abundance of possessions.

III. Lessons from Nature: Three Reasons to Trust God (Luke 12:22–28)

- **A. Consider the Ravens (Provision)**
 - **Scripture:** Luke 12:24.
 - **The Context:** In Leviticus 11:15, ravens were considered "detestable" and "unclean." Jesus uses the "lesser to greater" argument: if God feeds the least respected birds, "how much more" is a human worth?.
 - **Illustration: Sea Gulls at the Beach.** While scavenging for fries and garbage, seagulls often display a sense of "complete peace and patience" rather than worry.
- **B. Consider the Clock (Futility)**
 - **Scripture:** Luke 12:25–26.

- **Illustration: The March of Time.** Parents often worry if they are doing enough for their children as time passes.
- **The Lesson:** Time is the "great equalizer." No one can "make more" of it or store it, so worry is futile because it cannot add a single hour to one's life.
- **C. Consider the Lilies (Value)**
 - **Scripture:** Luke 12:27–28.
 - **The Lesson:** Wildflowers are temporary—here today and "thrown into the oven" tomorrow—yet God clothes them in beauty surpassing King Solomon's glory. If God cares for "grass," he will certainly clothe his children.

IV. The Shift: Seeking the Kingdom (Luke 12:29–32)

- **The Contrast:** "The nations of the world" (unbelievers) strive for security through their own strength and agendas.
- **Diagnostic Tool:** Anxiety serves as a tool to reveal what we treasure and who we are truly trusting.
- **Story/Illustration: John Piper's Question.** In *God Is The Gospel*, Piper asks: "Would you be happy in heaven if Christ were not there?" This warns against seeking the **gifts of God** (comfort, leisure, beauty) without seeking the **Giver**.
- **The Father's Heart:** Jesus calls his followers a "little flock" to highlight their dependence and promises that it is the "Father's **good pleasure** to give you the kingdom."

V. The Kingdom Lifestyle: Generosity (Luke 12:33–34)

- **The Pattern of the King:**
 - Jesus was the king "no one expected"—a suffering king rather than a warrior king.
 - **Scripture References:** Mark 8:31 (Suffering); John 13 (Washing feet); Philippians 2 (Emptying himself).
- **Illustration: "Man Up" and "Heroic Masculinity."** This initiative calls men to use their power and resources for the benefit of others, modeled by the "man up on the cross."

Closing Principle: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Luke 12:34)

Questions for Application:

1. **From the parable of the Rich Fool, how do you see the same temptation today—to build bigger "barns" rather than deeper trust?**
2. **What is one thing you regularly worry about that reveals where your sense of security maybe drifting?**
3. **What does your spending, saving, or giving currently say about where your treasure is?**
4. **What is one concrete act of generosity God may be inviting you into—time,**

resources, attention, or service?