

## Reflection Questions: Luke 12:22-31

For the message, "Life, Anxiety, & the Presence of God" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on July 11, 2021

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*These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).*

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read the Scripture text:** Luke 12:22-31

**22** 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.

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### **Let's get started...**

- When you hear Jesus saying, "Do not be anxious about your life...", how does that strike you? Does it cause more anxiety? Or maybe confusion? Is it clarifying or hopeful? Be honest.

### **QUESTIONS**

#### **1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- The reason behind Jesus' statement, "Do not be anxious...", is that you have a Heavenly Father who cares for you and knows your needs. Why does Jesus think this should be life-changing for us? What does he see clearly that we sometimes (often?) find difficult to see or believe?
  - How easy do you find it to trust this truth? What questions does it prompt for you?
- Let's look at another passage that intersects with this one in an interesting way. It's found in Philippians 4. The Apostle Paul is writing from prison and he says in verse: "5 ...The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
  - What jumps out to you about the Apostle Paul's instructions here?

- What do you notice about when God's peace comes into focus? In other words, how does the reality of verse 7 flow out of what comes before it?

## **2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.**

- Jesus tells us that instead of focusing on what makes us anxious, he wants his disciples dialed in on something else: the kingdom of God—the theme of Jesus' ministry. If the kingdom of God is the kind rule and reign of God in and through our lives as we follow Christ, what might that look like for us as a community of faith? In other words, if anxiety is not our Lord, but rather God is, what might that look like in a group of people committed to following Jesus?
- What role do we play in each other's life as we seek to be faithful to Jesus? Or to put it another way, why do we need each other to remember what Jesus has been saying about anxiety, the presence of God & his kingdom in our lives? Or to put it in a slightly different way, why do we need each other to help us remember and not forget that God cares for us, knows our needs, and has promised to supply all our needs according to his riches in Christ Jesus (cf. Philippians 4:19)?

## **3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.**

- How does this text serve as Good News for those outside the faith? What kind of new life / future in Christ is this text calling our city to experience?
- Based on this passage, how would you answer this question: What kind of me does God want for his mission in Bryan-College Station?

## CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

## PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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