



HOME GROUP QUESTIONS FROM SERMON 5th November 2023

SIMPLICITY

Luke 12 v13-34

TOO MANY ARGUMENTS (v13-14)

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." 14 But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?"

Icebreaker: Is it easy to agree on how to divide up the goods of a loved one?

Question 1: Why does Jesus not arbitrate? Surely as he knows everything, he is in a good position to decide...

TOO MANY POSSESSIONS (v15-21)

15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of one's possessions." 16 And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' 18 And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich towards God."

Question 2: What are all the mistakes the rich man makes in this parable?

Question 3: In what way are we like this man?

TOO MANY WORRIES (v22-34)

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?[c] 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,[d] 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[e] kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

Question 4: What are the main things we worry about?

Question 5: How can God help us?

32 "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with money bags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Question 6: Is Jesus advocating voluntary poverty?

Question 7: What needs to change in our lives?

PRAYER

Loving Lord, help us live our lives with less arguments or resentments, less material concerns and less worries. In the power of your Holy Spirit, help us loosen our grip on this world and its cares and on a daily basis receive the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and its joys, and live each day with true Simplicity in Christ, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.