

The Lord Will Never Not Take Care of You

- Have no fear, little flock: today J has a very simple, but btfl/mnngfl/reassuring truth he wants evone/us here today know/bel: title. I'd like you close eyes for moment & imagine that J sitting next you; has hand on shldr; no one else arnd; & says privately to you: **vs. 22-24; 27-28abc**. You! Why say that? Bec he knows evthng on yr hrt; knows what: makes you feel anxious; stresses you out; plagues yr mind – knows it all! And I know there's no one here today who's not strssd out re smthng. Let's say:
 - Gr schl stdnt; schl starts wk/half; nervous re new tcher; hmwrk this yr; mean kid in class, picks.
 - Hgh schl stdnt; schl starts soon for you too; anxious re harder classes/tchrs; worried whthr this yr you're going fit in w/clssmts, whthr cool or made fun of.
 - Recent HS grad, going off college this fall – to brand new place, living in dorms, away fr home; excited re this next big step but also scared re making this huge change.
 - Young adult; single; wish had partner; you'd really like go out on date & fall in love w/perf prsn; nervous might nvr happen.
 - Marg is really rocky right now; not sure if divrc is coming, but pretty sure there's no joy coming; so anxious re future of marg.
 - Just had baby, maybe 1st; and you're so in love w/tiny gift/God in yr arms; but terrified to think of incrdbl respsnblty you have in raising this baby.
 - You're a working adult; job is relentless; wrk nvr stops; always under pressure; and you know: not spending enough time w/spouse/kids; hardly see fam; but gotta work.
 - Just lost job & alrdy received last paycheck; don't have anything lined up yet; scared bec gotta pay bills & take care fam.
 - Just became empty nester; all kids now moved away, married, working; and you'd really like see them more often; but they're always so busy, live so far away; feel emptiness in hrt.
 - In golden yrs, and what makes you nervous: thought of moving out of home to assisted living center; or living on SS; or nvr-ending dr visits; or ever-weakening health.
- See what I did there? Just gave you 10 exmpls anxious/worrying hrts, ranging fr gr schl kids to elderly seniors. And I have spcfc ppl in mind for ev/one exmpls; so these aren't just hyphtcl. At ev stage/life, worries/cares/stresses/anxieties weigh heavy on our hrts – these exmpls I gave & million more – you know it's true. And so does J! And so today, our dear Sav J: **vs. 24; 27ac, 28c**. Title. There is no stage in your life where he'll leave you on own & stop loving you. Ev step/way, ev day, Lord'll provide for you, take care you, & be w/you. That is his simple yet nvr-failing prom! Title.
- Our prob: so often we doubt him; don't bel/trust him! We figure: I'm in control; I've gotta solve prom, find soltn, fix mess – evthng depnds on me. But not all probs/life are we able solve ourselves. We are not as in control/lives as we'd like think we are. Sure, we can make wise/poor choices; and God does expect us be good stwrds/mangrs our respsnblts. But you can't: control cancer; stop dth; prevent tragdy. You're not in control. Even J says: **vs. 25**. You can't.
- So you're faced w/choice. Either you worry/stress/freak out re the million anxieties that plague yr hrt, like rest **“pagan wrld”** that **“runs after all such things”** bec don't know J/proms. Or, you trust J's prom by faith that title. J wants us to live by faith. We heard in Heb 11: **“Faith: confdnc in what we hope for & assrnc re what we do not see” (1)**. The unseen reality, always at work in our lives, even when don't realize it, even when doubt it: our hvnly Fr is always providing for us exactly what we need. He knows what we need better than we do! And so we Xians follow path of faith/trust in proms/God.
- Proms like sang in Ps 121: **“I lift up my eyes to mnts; where does my help come fr? My help comes fr Lord, Maker hvn/earth. He'll not let yr ft slip. Lord watches over you. Lord will keep you fr all harm; he will watch over yr life”** – ev day; that's a prom! And why shld we bel him? Well, just look what he's alrdy given us. Just look at hvnly Fr giving us his Son, our dear Sav JC, who bled/died on cross for us, in payment for our sins – of doubt/worry. J took all the weight of our guilt/anxiety off our shldrs & bore that awful weight on cross. If you ever doubt God's love/concern for you, just look at Xp on cross! That's the Lord taking care of our greatest need. And if Lord **“did not spare own Son but gave him up for us all,”** he most certly will **“graciously give us all things” (Rom 8:32);** or as J: **vs. 31**. **“So” (J) “trust me; when: hrt is heavy; life going poorly; million anxieties are swirling arnd in yr head!”**

- It's incomtbl w/Xianity not to. Worry betrays wknss/faith. In J's wrds here, re ravens & wild flwrs, we can hear both L&G. Here's law: "Stop: worrying; doubting me; thinking I care more re flwrs/birds than I do re you. Your worry dishonors my dth/cross." And that's true. But in these very same wrds, we also hear Gos: "Don't worry; no need doubt. I'm here for you & always will be. I care re you so much! Just look at how I care for birds/flwrs – of course I care for you more! My dth/cross proves it. And I want you know that bec I died for you, you nvr ever have to worry/fear/be anxious re God's care for you ever again. I've got better country waiting for you, in hvn – same country I promsd Abrhm (Heb 11:16). And when you die, I'm going bring you be w/me there. So don't worry re this life."
- That: Gos that J wants to imprint upon your hrt – whthr you're in gr schl, HS, or college; yng adult or new prnt; working adult, empty nester, or elderly senior. Title. He clothes you better than flwrs; clothes you w/rightsnss/XP. Feeds you better than birds; feeds you w/holy bdy/bld/Xp. He invites you seek his kingdm; and proms he's alrdy gives you kngdm (vs. 31-32). He calls you his **"little flock"** and says **"do not be afraid."** And finly, says vs. 34. If we constantly worry, that means our hrt is focused on smthng other than J. But we if trust J, even when life is hard; if we trust Lord's prom that he'll title; then we make J the true treasure of our hrt; and then we can see by faith that we are the true treasure of his hrt.

Luke 12:22-34

²²Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? ²⁶Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

²⁷"Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

³²"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

