

## ***The Wonderful Salvation in the Gospel of Luke***

*And someone out of the crowd said to Him, Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me. But He said to him, Man, who appointed me a judge or divider over you? And He said to them, Watch and guard yourself from all covetousness, for no one's life is in the abundance of his possessions. And He told them a parable, saying, The land of a certain rich man brought forth abundantly. And he reasoned in himself, saying, What shall I do, for I have no place where I may gather my crops? And he said, I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and I will gather there all my wheat and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; rest, eat, drink, be merry. But God said to him, Foolish one, this night they are requiring your soul from you; and the things which you have prepared, whose will they be? So is he who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God. And He said to His disciples, Therefore I say to you, Do not be anxious for your life, what you should eat; nor for your body, what you should put on; for the life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens. They neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn; yet God nourishes them. How much more valuable are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a cubit to his stature? If then you cannot do even the least, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow; they do not toil nor even spin thread; but I tell you, Not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like one of these. Now if God so arrays the grass in the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is cast into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you, you of little faith! And you, do not seek what you shall eat and what you shall drink, and do not be unsettled. For all these things the Gentiles of the world are anxiously seeking, but your Father knows that you need these things. However, seek His kingdom, and these things shall be added to you. Do not be afraid, little flock, because your Father has been well pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms; make for yourselves purses that do not become old, an unfailing treasure in the heavens, where thief does not come near nor even moth corrupts; For where your treasure is, there also your heart will be (Luke 12:13-34).*

### **SALVATION FROM ANXIETY AND COVETOUSNESS**

If we are participating in the New Testament inheritance of the Triune God, we need to beware of coveting earthly possessions. Our life in God does not depend upon such possessions. It may be better for us to dispose of our material possessions. In verse 33 the Lord says, "Sell your possessions and give alms; make for yourselves purses which do not become old, an unfailing treasure in the heavens, where a thief does not come near nor even a moth corrupts." The point here is that as we are participating in the New Testament jubilee, we should not hold on to material possessions as an earthly treasure. We need to lay up treasures for ourselves in the heavens.

Beginning in verse 22, the Lord charged the disciples not to be anxious concerning their life. "And He said to His disciples, Therefore I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, what you should eat; nor for your body, what you should put on; for the life is more than food, and the body than clothing." Since our Father in heaven takes care of us, there is no need for us to be anxious about food or clothing.

In verse 24 the Lord says, "Consider the ravens, that they neither sow nor reap, for which there is neither storehouse nor barn; and God nourishes them. How much more valuable are you than the birds!" He

also uses the illustration of lilies: "Consider the lilies, how they grow; they do not toil nor even spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed as one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass in the field, which today is and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you, you of little faith!" Instead of being anxious, we should have faith in our heavenly Father.

In 12:31 the Lord says, "However, seek His kingdom, and these things shall be added to you." We should seek God's kingdom, which is actually the New Testament jubilee. If we are seeking the jubilee, the Father will give us food and clothing. He will add these things to us. The Lord says that our Father delights to give us the kingdom (v. 32). Certainly He will never forget our need. The Lord clearly says, "Your Father knows that you need these things" (v. 30). We are here for the jubilee, the kingdom, and since the Father delights to give us the kingdom, certainly He will take care of our material needs. Therefore, we do not need to worry or have anxiety.

We all need to be rescued from the anxiety of life. There is no need for us to be anxious about food and clothing. The meeting of these needs depends on God's faithfulness. He is faithful, and we should look to Him for what we need.

*(Adapted from the Life-Study of Luke.)*