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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**Luke 12:22-34**  
**Lesson #32**  
**Bird Watching**  
**05/03/2020**

“Fear is the path to the Dark Side. Fear leads to anger, anger leads to hate, hate leads to suffering.”

Yoda



1

**We worry about the future**

**Anxiety**



**We whine about the past**

**ANGER**



2

**We prepare for the future**

~~**Anxiety**~~



**We learn from the past**

~~**ANGER**~~



3

**Anxiety**  
a general feeling of insecurity

**Fear**  
a response to a specific threat

**Merimna**  
to be careful or cautious and attend

**Phobos**  
to be scared or terrified and avoid

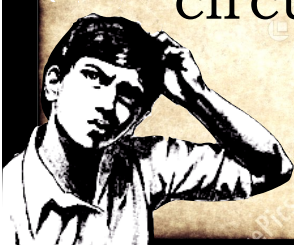
“I am worried.”    “I am scared.”

**both undermine sound judgment and our peace.**



4

How should a disciple of Christ manage “fearful circumstances”?



5



**Mistake #1**  
Identifying the challenge”  
as external circumstances  
**rather than internal perspectives.**



*Matthew 15:11*

“Not what enters into the mouth defiles the man, but **what proceeds out** of the mouth, this defiles the man.”

*Matthew 12:34*

“For the mouth speaks out of **that which fills the heart.**”

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**Mistake #2**  
Leading with  
“impulse”  
**rather than rational choices.**



“Fear is a reaction.  
Courage (faith) is a  
decision (choice).”



Winston Churchill

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**Mistake #3**  
Working hard and / or  
trusting God  
**but for the wrong thing.**



- The Kingdom of God is **NOT American culture or my carnal plans.**
- Christ died to save our souls **NOT OUR plans or dreams.**
- Its not about ME or WE **but THEE.**

9

**Mistake #4**  
Believing that  
we can  
**have it both ways.**



Trying to serve both God  
and Mammon **doubles our stress not our security.**

10

*Luke 12:31 (Matt.6:33)*  
“But seek for His kingdom (first), and  
**these things shall be added to you.**”

**Mistake #5**  
Believing that  
“these things” are  
**my material / temporal expectations.**



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### Luke 12

"22 And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, **do not be anxious for your life**, as to what you shall eat; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. 23 For life is more than food, and the body than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; and they have no storeroom nor barn; and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! 25 And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his life's span? 26 If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why are you anxious about other matters? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these. 28 But if God so arrays the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you, O men of little faith! 29 And do not seek what you shall eat, and what you shall drink, and **do not keep worrying**. 30 For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that **you need these things**. 31 But seek for His kingdom, and **these things shall be added to you**."

12

### Luke 12

"32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves purses which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near, nor moth destroys. 34 **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**"

- We have limited control of the length of our days or our circumstances.
- Our attention should go to living our lives for the things that really matter in the time and under the circumstances that we have.
- Expect God to provide all that we need to experience kingdom life now.

13

### Luke 12

"31 But seek for His kingdom, and **these things shall be added to you**. 32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves purses which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near, nor moth destroys. 34 **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**"

**Remembering  
who we are**

bearing  
God's Image



**Remembering  
who God is**

loving  
Shepherd

14

## The Point

**Build TRUE (spiritual) wealth and wisdom  
and the rest will take care of itself.**

- FIRST address anxiety and fear with spiritual development.
  - Broaden our Perspectives**
  - Adjust our Expectations**
  - Increase our Endurance**
  - Change our Priorities**
- This will liberate us to be fearless in decisions and courageous in actions.
- Follow the example of Jesus and the Disciples.

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### Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

### 2 Corinthians 12:10

"Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

### Philippians 3:8

"...Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ."

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## Bird Watching

"24 Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; and they have no storeroom nor barn; and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!"

- Our human nature - the image of God includes untapped abilities - **creativity, confidence, courage**.
  - ✓ Special Forces Training is to build confidence.
  - ✓ Seminary - spiritual "special opps" training.
  - ✓ Daniel's needs kept being met.
  - ✓ Personal failures.
  - ✓ Lost in the woods.
  - ✓ "Well, somebody better worry!"

17

Faith is Trusting God  
**IN THE DARK**

Faith involves  
**RISK**



If we fear the dark and  
can't live with risk it will  
be hard to follow Christ.

18

Stress does much abound  
When heavy loads we bear  
And ever shifting ground  
Make places safe quite rare.

But birds that fill the sky  
Each seem to find a way  
And singing as they fly  
Make it through each day.

Watching birds in flight  
That neither fear nor dread  
We contemplate our plight  
Of unseen things ahead.

Looking to God's word  
With worldly options stark  
And singing like a bird  
We trust Him in the dark.

*Jim Abrahamson*

## Bird Watching



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