Enough?

Cormac Parker Jr. · Luke · Luke 12:22-30; Luke 12:31-34

AT A GLANCE

Following last week's parable of the rich fool in the Luke series, Cormac Parker Jr. takes up Jesus' answer to anxiety over whether there will be enough. Jesus offers no budget template, only ravens and lilies that point to a Father who already provides. The remedy for worry is to look to that Father and live for his kingdom, training the heart through concrete generosity.

- Worry tunnels the mind onto a future check and drains attention from the present, and the finish line called enough keeps moving.
- Jesus argues from the lesser to the greater: if God feeds unclean ravens and clothes passing grass, he will not forget you.
- Seeking the kingdom is an ongoing submission to the King's will, and it becomes tangible when we show up with generosity for someone in need.

> *"It's not on you. It's on the one who clothes the flowers. It's on the one who feeds the birds."*

EXPOSITION

Scripture engaged

> Luke 12:22-30 — [22]Jesus said to his followers, "So I tell you, don't worry about the things you need to live—what you will eat or what you will wear. [23]Life is more important than food, and the body is more important than what you put on it. [24]Look at the birds. They don't plant, harvest, or save food in houses or barns, but God feeds them. And you are worth much more than crows. [25]None of you can add any time to your life by worrying about it. [26]And if you can't do the little things, why worry about the big things? [27]Think about how the wildflowers grow. They don't work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that even Solomon, the great and rich king, was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. [28]If God makes what grows in the field so beautiful, what do you think he will do for you? That's just grass—one day it's alive, and the next day someone throws it into a fire. But God cares enough to make it beautiful. Surely he will do much more for you. Your faith is so small! [29]So don't always think about what you will eat or what you will drink. Don't worry about it. [30]That's what all those people who don't know God are always thinking about. But your Father knows that you need these things." (ERV)

> Luke 12:31-34 — [31]What you should be thinking about is God's kingdom. Then he will give you all these other things you need. [32]"Don't fear, little flock. Your Father wants to share his kingdom with you. [33]Sell the things you have and give that money to those who need it. This is the only way you can keep your riches from being lost. You will be storing treasure in heaven that lasts forever. Thieves can't steal that treasure, and moths can't destroy it. [34]Your heart will be where your treasure is." (ERV)

The argument

Worry Narrows Our Vision to the Check Because We Assume Provision Depends on Us — Why the finish line called enough keeps moving

Cormac Parker Jr. opens with a restaurant lunch he could not afford to pay for: "My body was at the table, but my mind was on the check." Worry, he says, "pulls your thinking and your entire focus from the moment you're in to something that hasn't happened yet," which he says some call tunneling. Its modern forms are layoffs, AI, parenting, keeping up. In a culture built on more, enough is "sort of like a finishing line that just keeps moving." Last week's rich fool shows the end: his possessions had him, and "I've never seen a U-Haul following behind a hearse." Then the lunch resolves: his mentor already had a tab, and "my worry was inextricably tied to the fact that I thought that this depended on me."

> **Insight —** *Anxiety about enough is less a measure of our resources than a misplaced assumption that the burden of provision rests on us.*

Creation Argues from Lesser to Greater That the Father Will Not Forget Us — Unclean ravens, unemployed lilies, and grass bound for the oven

Jesus' "do not be anxious," Parker notes, is a present imperative: not a suggestion but a lifestyle, and not a call to carelessness, only to a life not governed by worry. Where Matthew says birds, Luke says ravens, which he notes Hebrew Scripture counted unclean, the least respected birds in Israel. Ravens also have no barns, an echo of the rich fool. Lilies have no job. The grass, in ancient Palestine, was dried for oven fuel, here today and gone tomorrow. Even Solomon, he says, can't tie the shoes of these flowers. "If God has not forgotten about the raven, what makes you think he's forgotten about you, your needs, your provision?" Worry, he says, is like a rocking chair: "It'll get you moving, but it takes you nowhere."

> **Insight —** *The argument from lesser to greater turns every overlooked corner of creation into evidence that the Father who tends it has not overlooked us.*

Anxiety Is Answered by Shifting the Gaze to the Father Behind Creation — Grounding the mind in what is stable while the turbulence continues

The birds and flowers are not the point; the one behind them is. "Behind the birds, behind the flowers, is a heavenly Father who cares and is more than able to provide." Parker recalls that

Luke has already taught this in the model prayer, "Father, give us our daily bread," and Jesus here rests everything on it: "Your Father knows that you need them." He compares it to watching flight attendants calmly pouring Diet Coke in turbulence. The turbulence does not stop, but shifting the gaze grounds you, as counselors teach, and he calls Jesus the great counselor, well ahead of his time. His practical form is recollection, an ancient practice of recalling to memory how God has already shown up: "If he's done it before, he can do it again."

> **Insight —** *When scarcity tunnels the vision, the remedy is not to stop the turbulence but to fix the eyes on what is stable: the Father's faithfulness.*

Seeking the Kingdom Is an Ongoing Submission to the King's Will — Where our treasure goes, the heart follows

Parker observes that "seek" in Luke 12:31 carries an ongoing pursuit, "an ongoing lifestyle," not a one-time act. Original hearers, he says, would have heard kingdom, and "kingdom has a king, and a king has a will," so seeking means submitting life to the King's purposes. He cites a theologian: the kingdom brings "the values and priorities of God himself to bear on the greed and anxiety of the world." Then Jesus turns practical: sell possessions, give to the needy, for "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Parker admits it is a head-scratcher, since Jesus tells us to give away the very thing we fear losing. He reads it as training the heart to know "there will be enough because it is the Father's good pleasure to give it to us."

> **Insight —** *Worry loosens its grip when we reorient life around the King's priorities, and giving is how the heart learns that the Father's supply is real.*

Generosity Is Worship That Makes the Kingdom Tangible — Over-spiritualizing is the quiet way to miss it

Parker roots the command in the whole of Scripture. Israel was told to leave the edges of the field for orphans, immigrants, and widows, and the prophets rebuked abundance that looked past the vulnerable. In ancient Jewish tradition, he says, almsgiving involved three parties, the giver, the recipient, and God, so generosity is not "merely about moving money from one account to another" but worship. Then he confesses: at Raising Cane's a man asked him to buy lunch, and he hesitated, ran scenarios, and wanted to get back to his reading, until the Spirit asked, "Cormac, what do you think seeking my kingdom means?" His lesson: "I almost missed it." Seeking means "going after what God goes after," stewarding time, talents, and treasures to care for others.

> **Insight —** *Seeking the kingdom is not finished in study and prayer alone; it means going after what God goes after, in tangible acts for those in need.*

Cross-references

- Luke 12:16-21 — Last week's rich fool, whose barns and possessions are the backdrop for the disciples' own worry
- Luke 11:2-3 — The model prayer that already taught us to ask our Father for daily bread
- Matthew 6:26 — Matthew's parallel, which says birds in general where Luke specifies ravens
- Leviticus 19:9-10 — Israel's command not to harvest to the very edge, leaving margin for the vulnerable
- Proverbs 19:17 — The proverb that giving to the vulnerable is lending to God
- Matthew 25:40 — Jesus' words that what is done to the least of these is done to him

DEVOTIONAL

A raven has no barn. It has no ledger, no tab at the restaurant, no plan for the check. Jesus, asked in effect what to do when worry knocks, does not hand over a budget; he points out the window. Look at the unclean bird. Look at the flower with no job. Look at the grass that will be fuel by evening. It is a strange rebuke, because it is so gentle. We are not scolded for caring; we are invited to look up. Worry narrows the world to a single line on a receipt, and the cure is a wider horizon, one with a Father at the end of it, a Father who knows what we need. Notice what the birds do not do. They do not hoard, and they do not despair. They live inside a provision they did not earn and cannot manufacture. The quiet scandal is that this is permitted to us too. The turbulence is real; no one promised the plane would hold still. But a steady face across the aisle, a hand calmly pouring a drink, can change what the body believes about the next minute. So the gaze moves, and then the hands move. What we cannot clutch, we can open. The coin given away is a small rehearsal of trust, a way of telling the heart what the mind has begun to believe: that the table was set before we arrived, and the check was never ours alone to carry. Somewhere a tab is already open, and it is larger than our account.

Reflection

- Where is your check right now, the thing your eyes keep returning to while your body sits at the table, and what has it pushed to the edge of your vision?
- Recall a time God has already shown up for you. What would it look like to put that memory in front of you the next time worry tunnels your vision?
- What has God placed in your hands this week that you could give away, and what in you hesitates, runs scenarios, or wants to get back to its reading?

Closing prayer

God, we thank you for your goodness and for providing for us day in and day out. Thank you that we can come honestly and cast our cares on you, and that your Word has shown us where to look. You are more than enough. Make us people who look to you and live for your kingdom, generous with what you have placed in our hands, knowing all we have comes from you. We confess we have tried to do it on our own, thinking it all depended on us. You are our Father, who knows what we need and delights to give us the kingdom. Amen.

FORMATION

One thing to remember

Enough is not a figure you reach but a Father you trust, and trust grows as you look to his faithfulness and loosen your grip.

This week

This week, name one thing God has placed in your hands, whether money, time, or a talent, and give it to someone in need. Before you do, pray Luke 12:32 over it and recall one way God has already provided for you.

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