

Home Group study: week beginning 13th July 2020

Jesus Christ: Dangerous Revolutionary 2

1: Stress & anxiety

Most of us get stressed over major and serious issues. But what are some of the trivial or even daft things that wind us up?

Read:

Luke 12: 22-31

In his sermon on Sunday Dave referred to the structure of this passage. There was a 'do not', a comparison, a question, another comparison and a challenge. Let's go through them

Discovery

What is the 'do not' which opens this passage? How do we react to Jesus' instruction to us, not to worry? What are the things Jesus suggests we worry about? These are all major issues to us; what other things could we add to the list in our modern lives? Does Jesus' instruction apply to those things too (mortgages and MoT tests, for example, weren't really 'a thing' at that time)?

What is the first comparison Jesus makes? How do birds and other wild creatures survive? Are the facts that there are large numbers of small insects, grubs etc emerging at the time that birds need to feed their young, or that creatures know instinctively how to manage their food supplies through the winter (a) an accident of nature, (b) a product of evolution, (c) an on-going, almost unseen day-by-day miracle or (d) none of these? What does that say about our needs: especially in view of the last sentence of v24?

What are the questions Jesus asks in verses 25-26? Have a look at the lead-in to this story, Luke 12: 16-21. How does this question relate to that parable? In the current climate, does this mean that there's no point in taking sensible precautions? *(NB: Please make sure the group **doesn't** conclude that there is no point in taking sensible precautions! As a church we are honouring, and abiding by, the Government's guidelines and regulations. There is a big difference between worrying about bad things and using common sense to avoid them.)*

What is the second comparison Jesus makes? How do we react when we see wild flowers or a well-cultivated garden? How much influence does man have over the appearance of a garden or a patch of wild meadow? What is our attitude to clothing in 21st century western society? How could it be more Godly? Does this passage suggest that we should be content to have clothing that just keeps us warm, dry and decent, or do you think Jesus is happy for us to have nice-looking clothes? Does that suggest we need to have a new wardrobe every time the fashions change?

What is the challenge at the end of the passage? Has getting hold of food been a worry during lockdown? If so, has our worry been about not getting enough to eat or more about not being able to get hold of items we like to eat? Was it worth losing sleep over?

What is our reward for seeking God's Kingdom?

Understanding

What is the most important thing for us to do? Spend some time talking about what Kingdom of God actually means to us.

Application

How do we go about seeking the Kingdom of God? The parallel passage in Matthew, rather than simply 'seek his kingdom', says 'seek **first** his kingdom **and his righteousness**' (Matt 6:33). What does it mean to 'seek first' the Kingdom of God? What does it mean, to 'seek his righteousness'? How does that fit in with seeking the kingdom? What we can do to see God's kingdom advancing in our locality

Dave told us that a *Daily Mail* survey found that people worry on average for 1hr 50min per day. He also quoted Corrie Ten Boom:

'Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow; it only saps today of its joy'.

Contemplate the truth and wisdom of this quote. Does it help us to combat worry and stress in our lives? How does seeking God's kingdom first and foremost help to reduce our worry?