

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

GOD PROVIDES ALL YOU NEED

Luke 12:31 “. . .seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you.” (Read Luke 12:22-31)

20% of Americans in the last year were diagnosed through medical testing with an anxiety disorder. The National Institute of Health states that over a lifetime over 30% of Americans at some point will have an anxiety disorder. These statistics do not include the normal worries and fears that most all people experience from time to time.

It appears from verse 22 that Jesus was addressing the anxiety of people regarding life and the basic necessities of life. In a recent national poll, the specifics have perhaps changed as to what people are most anxious about. Their anxieties still center around the basic necessities of life and personal security. (Income, size and power of government, Social Security System, Terrorist attack, the economy and availability and affordability of health care)

Jesus then said, there is something more essential than these. “O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you.” (Luke 12:28-31)

Since God, your Heavenly Father is Your Father and provider, Jesus says, you have nothing to worry about. He illustrated, “Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them” (Luke 12:24) And again, “Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you.” (Luke 12:27-28)

Martin Luther wrote that believing in God as your Father means that you believe, among other things, “He will provide all you need to support your body and life” including “defending you from all danger and guarding and protecting you from all

evil.” Luther wrote that God does this out of His “fatherly divine goodness and mercy without any merit or worthiness on your part.” (Small Catechism)

The Holy Spirit strengthen you in your faith and trust in your Heavenly Father with these words of the Psalmist, “Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!” (Psalm 37:5-7) God will always provide for your basic life needs but most importantly He has given You the gift of faith in His Son through whom He gives you the promise of eternal life.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, remove from my heart and mind worries and fears replacing them with faith and trust in You to provide me with all I need to support my body and life. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

For the fruits of His creation, Thanks be to God.
For His gifts to ev’ry nation, Thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth’s safe-keeping, Thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done.
In our world-wide task of caring For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, Thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, Thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.
(LSB 894)