**THE HU$TLE IS OVER**

**Part 2 of 6**

**He’s Faithful…Don’t Worry**

**Luke 12: 22-34**

You’re probably familiar with the shell game. You know, the one where a con artist on the street cheats you out of your money by moving the shells around while you’re trying to keep track of which shell has the ball under it. You think you have it figured out, but when the shell is lifted up, the ball is gone—AND SO IS YOUR MONEY!

Sometimes dealing with personal finances feels like that. We feel hustled—by trying to keep up with bills, expenses, taxes, even the Joneses! And it seems like the more we hustle to try to keep up, the more we get hustled! But there’s good news, God has a plan for your financial freedom! The hustle is over!

Say it with me: “Grace will take me places hustling can’t!”

I mentioned last week that in reality, our money isn’t “our” money…but God’s money. We saw that everything belongs to Him, and anything we have in our possession at any given time comes from Him, and we’re simply managers…stewards…administrators of GOD’S stuff! Even our ability to earn a living is a blessing from God.

So that’s why the first teaching in this series was called *“He Owns It, We Use It.”* Let’s say that together! And because this is true, we can live generously because we know that He’s blessed us in order to BE a blessing. If you missed last week’s teaching, check it out on the Calvary App or at calvarychurch.cc. Today we want to probe a little deeper into another theme that emerges in Luke 12, which is the idea that *“He’s Faithful…(so) Don’t Worry!”* Say that with me.

You know, there are many roadblocks that keep us from handling money the way God’s designed. There’s insecurity…pride…idolatry…greed…envy…lack of faith… and the list goes on! But what we’re going to see today is one of the greatest deterrents – one of the most common road-blocks – to living a generous life of love…and that’s the roadblock of WORRY. It’s that “worry-monster” that sits on your shoulder and pushes on your chest at night. The worry-monster hustles us, hurts us and harasses us.

So, we’re going to need our Bibles. And you can turn again to Luke chapter 12, because we’re picking up right where we left off. Last weekend we stopped at verse 21. So, Luke chapter 12, verse 22 is where we’ll pick up today.

And remember, we left off where Jesus tells the crowd a story about a rich fool who is selfish with his resources…and then Jesus continues speaking to this same group of Jewish people, most of whom are suffering in poverty. And we pick up in verse 22…

Luke 12: 22-34 “22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap; they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them And how much more valuable are you than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? 27 Consider how the wildflowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. 32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourself that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

So, there you have it! Jesus says an awful lot in those verses, and we’re going to look at just a few powerful, timeless reminders for how we can rise above worry when it comes to handing money. Because we’ve all been there! We’ve all worried about money at one time or another, on some level. If you’re following in your notes, we’re gonna jot down…

Three Ways to Stop the Worry Monster’s Hustle:

1. Realize that worry has no power to CURE a money problem.

Number one – is that God’s the ultimate source of provision for His entire creation…including you and me.

Number 2 – God’s our Father

* In verse 24, he says, *“consider the ravens…look at how God provides food for them!”* And later in verse 27, he says, *“consider the flowers in the wild – look at how God clothes them in such beauty!”* And what he’s doing is making an argument from the “lesser to the greater.”
* 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?
* 30b “…your Father knows that you need them.”

1. Recognize that CHARITY is the most sound financial investment we’ll ever make in this life.

* 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourself that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

1. Realize that generosity is ultimately CONNECTED to the heart, not the wallet.

* 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
* Luke 21:1-4

1 As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. 2 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 3 “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. 4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

* Proverbs 3:9-10

9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing and your vats will brim over with new wine.