

# The DAILY JESUS NEWS #188

(Note: You can read the online Newspaper edition of this post [here](#).)

## Jesus Addresses Crucial Issues in Discipleship

Living With Confidence in God's Providence  
Luke 12.22-34 (Similar Repeated Text: MT 6.25-32)

22 Then Jesus said to his disciples:

*"Therefore I command you: do not keep on worrying about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is much more than food, and the body more than clothes.*

*24 "You must learn a lesson from the ravens: They do not continue to sow or reap, and they have no storeroom or barn; yet God keeps on feeding them. And how much more valuable you are than mere birds!*

*25 "Who can add a single hour to your life by non-stop worrying about it? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you continue to worry about the rest?*

*27 "You must learn a lesson from the way wild flowers grow. They do not continue to labor, or keep spinning all day. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. 28 Since that is how God always 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 "So I command you not to keep on setting set your heart on what you will eat or what you will drink; you must not keep on worrying about it. 30 For the pagan world is constantly seeking after all such things, and your Father always knows that you have an ongoing need for them."*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Speaking to a Crowd of Thousands, Somewhere in Judea
Timeline	October or November (Months 33, 34)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	D. Jesus Minister in Judea and Trains His Disciples
	3. Jesus Addresses Crucial Issues in Discipleship
Title	iii. Living With Confidence in God's Provision

COMMENT:

Jesus had been teaching his disciples about the importance of agreeing with him, by adjusting our own ideas, attitudes, and behavior to match him. In today's reading he applied this principle to our faith in his providential care for our needs. Our Lord taught these same truths in Galilee about 18 months earlier, in the "Teaching on the Mount" in MT 6.25-34. They are timeless truths that we never stop learning as we walk with Jesus.

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Jesus described God's perspective on meeting our physical needs in this passage. He twice commanded his disciples to carefully consider, and learn a permanent lesson from the way God cares for the physical needs of birds (12.24) and wild flowers (12.27). The point was to learn to agree with God by trusting in His providence, rather than worrying.

As Co-Creator and Sustainer of all life, Jesus knew his Father's thoughts and intentions to provide for the needs of all his creatures. God is love; therefore he designed his creation to function with the needs of each individual living thing provided for in advance. This is the Divine will; it is showcased throughout his creation.

His Father made sure each bird had food. He created billions of mere wild flowers to live with beauty and glory that no human fashion designer can rival. In agreeing with Jesus about God's providential care for animals (birds) and plants (flowers), we also agree with his care for us.

Providence means that the God who designed us knows all of our needs in advance, and because he loves us unconditionally, he has already planned and prepared to meet our needs before we even ask. Therefore, agreeing with God means we stop worrying.

Jesus gave us all a command to **"stop worrying"** about our physical needs. He used a tense that means we should not worry obsessively, or constantly, like the gnawing pain of a toothache. Yes, we need to be wise managers of God's resources, and that means awareness of our situation. But we do that in the firm conviction that God is the Master Provider whom we serve, and HE has already prepared everything we need—before we ask Him to provide it.

It is God's role to produce and deliver what we need. It is our role to manage it effectively for his glory. As long as we do not confuse those roles we can live in joy and peace.

### APPLICATION:

*What do you tend to continually worry about?*

*How have you switched your role from "manager" to "producer?"*

*In what specific way do you need to agree with Jesus in prayer about your current source of worry?*