

And he told them this parable: There was a rich man whose land yielded heavy crops. He debated with himself: "What am I to do?" said he: "I will pull down my storehouses and build them bigger. I will collect in them all my corn and other goods, and then say to myself, 'man you have plenty of good things laid by, enough for many years: take life easy, eat, drink and enjoy yourself.'" But God said to him, "You fool, this very night you must surrender your life; you have made your money - who will get it now?" That is how it is with the man who amasses wealth for himself and remains a pauper in the eyes of God.

'Therefore', he said to his disciples, 'I bid you put away anxious thoughts about food to keep you alive and clothes to cover your body. Life is more than food, the body more than clothes. Think of the ravens: they neither sow or reap; they have no storehouse or barn; yet God feeds them. You are worth far more than the birds!

Is there a man among you who by anxious thought can add a foot to his height? If, then, you cannot do even a very little thing, why are you anxious about the rest?

"Think of the lilies: they neither spin nor weave, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his splendour was not attired as one of these. But if that is how God clothes the grass, which is growing in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown on the stove, how much more will he clothe you! How little faith you have!

And so you are not to worry. For all these are things for the heathen to run after; but you have a Father who knows that you need them. No, set your mind upon his kingdom, and all the rest will come to you as well.

Have no fear, little flock; for your Father has chosen to give you the Kingdom. Sell your possessions and give in charity. Provide for yourselves purses that do not wear out, and never-failing treasure in heaven, where no thief can get near it, no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Be ready for action, with belts fastened and lamps alight. Be like men who wait for their master's return from a wedding party, ready to let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. Happy are those servants whom the master finds on the alert when he comes. I tell you this: he will fasten his belt, seat them at table, and come and wait on them. Even if it is the middle of the night

or before dawn when he comes, happy they if he finds them alert. And remember, if the householder had known what time the burglar was coming he would not have let his house be broken into.

Hold yourself ready, then, because the Son of Man will come at the time you least expect him.'

Music: "Meditation"

Scripture is from the New English Version of the Bible