



Going Deeper into

Luke 12:32-34 – “Do Not Fear, God Is Here”

1. **Jesus referred to His disciples and those listening as “little flock.” He often described our relationship to Him and God the Father as sheep to a shepherd. Read Psalm 23.**

The valley of the shadow of death in v.4 and the green pastures and still waters of v.2 are one and the same location. How have you experienced blessings from a situation that could also cause harm?

Describe a time when God has provided for you in the midst of trouble. Does the fact that He has provided in the past help you trust Him for future troubles? Why or Why not?

The Psalmist ends by focusing on God’s provision today and the hope for continued provision because he belongs to God. How are you trusting God to take care of you in the present and in the future?

Pray: Lord, you are my shepherd and you provide all my needs. Forgive me for my lack of trust in the midst of my troubles, and help me to recognize your blessings and to trust you for my life. Amen.

2. **In his book, *The Divine Conspiracy*, Dallas Willard claims: “This present world is a perfectly safe place for us to be.”**

Looking at Luke 12:4-34, what kind of experiences and situations does Jesus expect us to encounter?

How does Dallas Willard’s claim fit with the experiences Jesus anticipates in our lives?

The trials and dangers of this world are not outside of God’s knowledge or authority, and therefore we can trust Him even as we experience them. What areas of life are you still frightful of, that you need to acknowledge God’s sovereignty in them?

Pray: Dear Heavenly Father, help me to see that this world is a perfectly safe place for me, and help me to trust in you and not to fear this world or the people of the world. Amen.

3. In Luke 12:22-31, Jesus tells His disciples not to be anxious about what they will eat or wear as they provide for their lives, that God knows what we need.

Why do you believe our attitude toward our possessions is connected to our fear of the world?

How do your possessions and your desire for safety affect your ability to seek God's kingdom?

The Greek word translated as anxiety means "to be distracted" and "drawn in opposite directions." How are you distracted or feel yourself pulled in opposite directions when it comes to following Jesus?

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank you for providing clothes, food, and a home for me. Help me to remember that you will always provide for me, and focus my heart on seeking and serving in your kingdom. Amen.