

Matthew 6:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Analysis

Jesus applies the lesson with mild rebuke: 'Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?' (Greek: ὀλιγόπιστοι, 'little-faith ones'). The argument intensifies - grass is even more temporary than lilies, used as fuel for baking ovens, yet God clothes it beautifully. The phrase 'much more' (πολλῷ μᾶλλον) emphasizes the certainty of God's care for humans. 'O ye of little faith' (όλιγόπιστοι) is gentle rebuke - anxiety reveals inadequate faith. The issue isn't God's ability or willingness but our trust. Worry insults God's faithful character.

Historical Context

Palestinian peasants used dried grass and wildflowers as oven fuel since wood was scarce. The dramatic contrast - from field beauty to oven fuel within a day - emphasized life's transience. Jesus uses this ephemeral nature to argue for God's greater care for eternal beings. Jewish thought emphasized human dignity as image-bearers of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Jesus appeals to this inherent value - if temporary grass receives God's attention, how much more do eternal souls? This would challenge anxiety among economically precarious audiences.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does anxiety reveal inadequate trust in God's character and promises?
2. What is the relationship between the greatness of our God and the smallness of our anxieties?
3. In what areas of life does 'little faith' manifest as excessive worry rather than confident trust?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	δέ	τὸν	χόρτον	τοῦ	ἀγροῦ	σήμερον	օντα	καὶ
if	Wherefore	G3588	the grass	G3588	of the field	which to day	is	and
G1487	G1161		G5528		G68	G4594	G5607	G2532
αὔριον	εἰς	κλίβανον	βαλλόμενον	ό	Θεὸς	οὗτως		
to morrow	into	the oven	is cast	G3588	God	so		
G839	G1519	G2823	G906		G2316	G3779		
ἀμφιέννυσιν	οὐ	πολλῷ	μᾶλλον	ύμᾶς,	όλιγόπιστοι;			
clothe	shall he not	much	more	clothe you	O ye of little faith			
G294	G3756	G4183	G3123	G5209	G3640			

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 14:31 (Faith): And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Luke 12:28 (Faith): If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?

1 Peter 1:24 (Parallel theme): For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

Matthew 16:8 (Faith): Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

Matthew 8:26 (Faith): And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

John 20:27 (Faith): Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

Mark 4:40 (Faith): And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

Hebrews 3:12 (References God): Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.