

Overview of the biblical text



Letting go of fear (12:22-31)

Jesus starts by telling the disciples not to worry about food, clothing or life itself. He points to lilies and birds, reminding us that the same God who cares for creation cares even more for the little flock. When churches compete for resources or influence, pride and fear take the lead. Recognising that God provides for every branch of his household frees us to share rather than hoard – for example, by co-funding community outreach projects, or simply celebrating one another's gifts without envy. Letting go of fear of scarcity or decline allows churches to collaborate on social justice, evangelism and worship without seeing one another as rivals. Sharing buildings for worship with other Christian communities and gratefully offering sanctuary to those who have no home can offer a foretaste of the reconciled unity in diversity for which we pray.

Embracing the Kingdom (12:32-34)

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.' Jesus reframes royal terminology into an invitation: our true treasure isn't in buildings or budgets or politics, but in the reign of God – visible in mercy, justice and mutual care. In ecumenical settings, differing liturgies or doctrines can feel like competing claims to 'the kingdom'. Such diversity can also be an asset. Focusing on shared values, such as hospitality, forgiveness and diakonia (Greek: humble and attentive service or ministry), shifts attention from our distinct traditions toward the one reality we are called to embody together.