

God will take care of you

Reflections on 9/2

Last update - Sunday, 9/6 - 8:40am

Introduction

Issue

- Ask: has what's been happening caused you to be anxious about the future? Honestly?
- We may be in for even more difficult times ahead, and those can produce worry and fear!

Comfort from God's word

- Today I simply want to remind you of the truth that Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount
- It is not unfamiliar an unfamiliar passage - but I find - especially in times of trouble, it is easily forgotten.

- I'm just going to read the passage and make some comments - and I pray that the Holy Spirit will let His word go down deep in our hearts!

Exegesis

25 *"That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing?"*

That is why

- Jesus has just told them it's impossible to serve two masters
- You will hate one and love the other, or vice versa
- God and money (material things)

Don't worry

- The take away is that we shouldn't worry about our material needs.
- To do so, takes our thoughts and hearts away from the Lord
- When that happens - fear and doubt enters in
- **Illustrate:** Peter taking his eyes off of Jesus and placing them on the wind and the waves

- The enemy wants us to forget the Lord during these times of trouble

More to life

- There's more to life than "stuff"
- There's more to life than our physical needs
- When we seek to meet them - they become *all consuming!*
- There is so much more to life than just working to feed and clothe ourselves
- See Jesus in **Matthew 4:3-4** *3 During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*
- It is a mistake to pursue only the physical needs we have - we must pursue God!

26 Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?

Example #1 - from nature

- Consider the birds
- I love being out in nature
- From the creation - I can learn lessons about the creator
- Jesus uses the birds to illustrate this concept

- They're not worried about what to eat - God takes care of them
- They simply gather what God provides
- **Illustrate:** Grace and I at Chipotle.

Point God takes care of them

- They don't worry - God takes care of them
- Estimated as many as 400 billion birds
- **Slide** That's 50x the number of humans
- God feeds them daily
- He can certainly take care of you

Key: Heavenly Father

- If God feeds the birds, won't he also feed you
- We are his children - he is our Heavenly Father
- We must remember the relationship is the key to understanding this portion of scripture
- In the same way that you make sure your kids / grandkids have food - before feeding the creatures outside

27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

What good is worry?

- Being anxious and worried - doesn't do anything!
- Worry is futile - wasted energy
- In fact - it doesn't add to your life - but may detract from it:
 - Headaches, fatigue
 - Difficulty swallowing, dry mouth
 - Inability to concentrate
 - Nausea
 - Rapid breathing / shortness of breath
 - Suppresses immune system
 - Messes with digestive tract
 - Muscle tension
 - Short term memory loss
 - Premature heart disease
- God's children should not be worried!
- Worry doesn't do anything for you - except destroy you physically

28 "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are.

Second example - beautiful flowers

- We worry about food - but Jesus reminds us that God feeds the birds
- We worry about clothes - but Jesus reminds us that God is the master artist

- **Illustrate:** This lilly was in the children's garden at Snyder park!

30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

Point

- God paints and robes these things beautiful
- Their lifespan is but a few days
- **Illustrate:** Neighbor works as a maintenance man at First Christian Church. After Easter last year, he brought home several lillies they were going to throw away - and planted them in his yard. They are blooming now!
- We are His Children, and we will Live Forever - he will take care of us!

31 "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.

Resolve - stop worrying

- Worry is just a lack of faith - or faith in the wrong things!
- When it comes to your material need - stop worrying

Mind of the unbeliever

33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Instead seek Him and His kingdom

- We should seek His Kingdom above all else
- Our minds should be set on Him - more of Jesus
- More of His will

Promise

- He will take care of us!
- That's the bottom line - God will take care of us.
- We have the job of seeking him!

Application

Worry is incompatible with Christianity

- Enemy wants to rob us of our joy

- Enemy wants to make us doubt our God
- We must resolve to trust him
- Easy to say we trust him with

To not worry, I must trust God

- that's a choice I make
- Will I trust my own understanding, or will I trust God?

That he knows what I need

- Does God know me?
- Does he know my situation?
- Is he familiar with what I need
- These are the questions we have to ask ourselves
- **Remember:** He created you, and knows exactly what you need. *Which means* he knows better than you what you need!

That he is willing to meet my need

- This is maybe the hardest
- Jesus kept emphasizing our relationship with God. He is our *Heavenly Father* which means we are his children
- When I trust him enough to

That he is able to meet my need

- Is God able?
- He feeds 50x more birds than humans
- He robes all the flowers of the field
- He is certainly able to meet your need
- **Thought:** When things don't happen in my timing - I still trust him! He knows what I need (and what I don't), and he knows when I need it!

To trust God I must

- Stop chasing my own provision
- Start seeking him

Resolve - carry my needs to Jesus

- Trust him
- As things go from bad to worse - he will not forsake you
- We need to keep seeking him!
- See **Philippians 4:6-7** *Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can under-*

*stand. His peace will guard your hearts
and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

- If we will give our needs to Jesus instead of worrying about them - he will take care of them, and we will have peace!
- Let's pray!