

Unwavering Trust (Matthew 6:25-34)

May 8, 2011 – Mother's Day

Jesus teaches us that even material necessities, however legitimate they may be, are not valid causes of worry but that we must reflect the kingdom of God by our unwavering trust in his gracious provision.

I. Do not be anxious (6:25-32, 34)

The Nature of Worry:

- Jesus is talking about what David Powlison calls, *anxious greed*. It expresses itself this way, “I want something I might not get, so I worry.”
- It concerns the *uncertainty* of life.
- It concerns things you can't *control*

“Central to worry is the illusion that we can *control* things...Anxiety and control are two sides of one coin. When we can't control something, we worry about it” (David Powlison).

- It signifies unbelief and lack of confidence in God (“O you of little faith” 6:30)

Jesus gives you six solid reasons to live without worrying. Do not worry because...

1. God gives you ultimate purpose in life (6:25).

- a. You were made to make much of God (cf. 1 Cor. 10:31).
- b. Go through your worry list one by one. Jesus promises, “Your life is more than _____.”

2. God values you greatly (6:26).

- a. To view the world this way is to have a biblical cosmology.

“In this sense, God stands ontologically over against his creation as its Creator and Sustainer. Designed by him, the universe hums along according to regular and predictable laws; but it does so only because he constantly exercises his sovereignty over the whole. No part of the system ever operates completely independently. Moreover, at any instant he chooses, he is free to suspend or abolish scientific ‘laws’; that alone will account for such a miracle as the resurrection of Jesus from the dead” (D. A. Carson).

- b. You are worth far more than birds (cf. Gen. 1:26-27).
- c. He argues from the lesser to the greater: If God provides for the birds, surely he will provide for you. Trust him.
- d. Also remember, God is *your heavenly Father* (not the birds' Father)
 - i. These promises were given to disciples of Christ (cf. 6:32)
 - ii. Maybe your greatest concern and worry today should be: am I a child of God? Do I have a relationship with God?
 - iii. The providence of God is seen the best when we look at the cross because it's there that God met our greatest need, the need for a savior (John 3:16).

3. God controls the length of your life (6:27).

- a. Irony: Worry is more likely to shorten your life than prolong it.

4. God will make you dazzle (6:28-30).

- a. If God does all this for the flowers that disappear so quickly, *how much more* will he you?

“The promise is far more than ‘God will take care of you.’ This is ‘God will clothe you in nothing less than his radiant glory!’ ‘So why do you worry about the clothes you wear? I’ll dress you in my own glory! Why do you worry about your health? I’ll raise you from the dead to eternal life. Why do you worry about a few dollars? I’ll give you the whole earth as your inheritance. Why do you worry when someone doesn’t like you? I’ll make you live in the kingdom of my love!’ ...God is giving you a life that is radiant, indestructible, and full of glory. You will *dazzle*” (David Powlison).

- b. The root of anxiety is unbelief. What promises are you not believing?

5. God knows exactly what you need (6:31-32).

- a. But what are you going to be *about*?
- b. The Gentiles are obsessed and driven by these things: food, drink, and clothing.
- i. They worry about these things because they don’t believe their lives were made for something bigger and better than themselves. .
- ii. They never even learn to trust God for the basic necessities of life.
- c. If you worry like the pagans, maybe it reveals you are pursuing the same things they are.
- d. Your worry advertises to the world that you don’t believe God knows what you need.

6. God provides new grace for each day (6:34).

- a. Jesus implicitly teaches that if tomorrow does bring new trouble, God will provide new grace to handle it.

Here are five things to use as a game plan when you start to worry (from David Powlison):

1. Name the pressures.
2. Identify how you express anxiety.
3. Ask yourself, “Why am I anxious?”
4. Which promise of Jesus speaks to you most?
5. Go to your heavenly Father (cf. Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Pet. 5:6-7).

II. Seek the Kingdom of God (6:33)

1. The imagery of “seek” here suggests an “unceasing quest.”
2. Enter into the saving reign of God through repentance and faith
3. Submit to the saving reign of God through radical obedience
4. Spread the news of the saving reign of God

Heart penetrating questions:

- Are you as concerned about reflecting the king as you are worrying about life?
- Does your life reflect an “unceasing quest” for the kingdom of God?

The Power of Christian Hope: “You can be freed from a life of worry through unwavering trust in the gracious provision of the caring heavenly Father.”