



EXPLORING THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN MATTHEW:

DON'T WORRY!

FEB 25, 2018

Holy Text: Matthew 6:25-34

INITIAL THOUGHTS

- In the Matthew 6 context of giving to the poor in secret, God-focused prayer (including being content with “daily bread”), fasting and self-denial, laying up heavily as opposed to earthly treasures, and being careful to serve only God not mammon, our LORD now gives an encouraging exhortation: Do not **worry**; do not be **anxious**.
- **WORRY** is a terrible thing. Another word for it is **ANXIETY**. Still another biblical word for it (if it stays around in the heart long enough) is **FEAR**.
- In King James, the expression “take no thought” literally means “do not be anxious” or “do not worry.” Our LORD commands us to NOT WORRY! Praise Him!

WARFARE IN THE MIND

1. Spiritual warfare often begins in the soulish realm; in the mind, the heart, and the **thoughts**.
2. Indeed, all fallen angels and unclean spirits can do to the believer is whisper to the mind or attempt to affect the mind through external means (ex. social media, culture, education, music, etc.) (cf. 2 Cor 10:4-6; Col 2:6-8; 1 John 4:18).
3. As a part of this warfare in the mind, please know that Satan loves to cause believers to constantly worry; to experience consistent **fearfulness**. Yes, this is a slower road to pain and destruction than outright deception, but it's one he will use if we allow it.
4. Precious friends, worry has spiritual, emotional, and even physical consequences.
5. It's almost like we weren't **created** to worry! There was NO worry in the Garden of Eden until sin!
6. Thank the Father for Jesus! He is our cure! (Php 4:6-9)

**Instead of worrying, pray to God in Christ! We have been promised the mind-keeping peace of God!
We should focus on pure light and life-giving things! We can walk in a peaceful state longer by following
the Scriptures and walking in apostolic doctrine! Hallelujah!**

THOUGHTS ON MATTHEW 6:25-34

1. “Therefore” connects verse 25 to the preceding verses. It means, “because of all I’ve said to you...because you are not to serve possessions but God...”
2. Because of all these things, do not worry about your life! Again, based on all He’s taught to this point, worry is the last thing a Kingdom-minded person should fall into.
3. He goes on to exhort that life is more than food and clothes! (v25)
4. Jesus gives an example of the birds (v26) and their daily needs being met by the Father despite their lack of laying up earthly treasure. **Oh please know fellow worriers, we are worth more to God than birds!**
5. According to Jesus, worry is **futile**! It changes nothing! All that spiritual, emotional, and physical damage for no profit! (v27)

6. Again, Jesus exhorts us to not worry about clothes (v28-29), using flowers as an example. (It's almost like He knows His people are vain!) Flowers have no capacity to worry or experience anxiety about tomorrow, and yet are more glorious than Solomon!
7. Issuing a gentle rebuke, our LORD ties worry to lack of **faith**. (v30) Ultimately, this is the cause of most worry...a lack of trust in God.

Oh that our faith might arise to trust God to meet our needs! Oh that the wisdom of God might be in our hearts; that our security would be found in Him alone! Oh that we might experience the joy of having faith in our LORD's daily sustaining power! Oh that we might be liberated from the tyranny of tomorrow!

8. For those walking in faith, food and drink are necessary but small things left to the Father's discretion and provision. To worry about them to the point of stress is to walk as unbelievers (gentiles). (v31-32)
9. A faith-filled Kingdom person's focus is on the Kingdom of God! (v33) The Kingdom is what he seeks! So much more can be said here, but in essence:
 - To seek the Kingdom is to seek the **King**. It assumes a passion to know, love, worship, and obey Christ.
 - To seek the Kingdom is to seek all the characteristics of the King: righteousness, holiness, love, truth, humility, joy, service, helping the needy, etc.
 - To seek the Kingdom is to seek souls, for the King came to seek and save the lost. (Lk 19:10)
 - To seek the Kingdom is to seek to be men and women of prayer, communing daily with the King.
 - To seek the Kingdom is to apply the Dominion Mandate, advocating for the precepts of the King across all jurisdictions.
10. From verse 34, one who walks with Christ trusts God for future needs but lives squarely in the **present**. He/she is both heavenly-minded and of earthy good! :)
 - This sort of believer doesn't worry about what tomorrow might bring, knowing that tomorrow, if it comes, is ordained and controlled by the loving graces of our Father.
 - This verse doesn't mean do not plan and count the cost (stewardship) and submit those plans to God;
 - It means don't agonize, overthink, and brood over tomorrow! It means do not STRESS over things one cannot control. Trust in the sovereignty of God!

APPLICATIONS FOR EDIFICATION (BUILDING UP) AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Are you a worrier? How does it affect you? Discuss with family or close friends.

1. Discuss what worry says about faith and why it is so hard to apply faith when times are uncertain.
2. We live in interesting times. Fears about the economic future, wars, politics, social upheavals, rampant evil like mass shootings, etc. pervade our minds.
3. However, imagine a life more free from worries about tomorrow. How might that look and feel?
4. Imagine being able to act (preaching the Gospel, contending for the faith, etc.) without worrying about the results?