

Worry in the Presence of the Father

Matthew 6:25-34

Introduction – We said this section (vv 19-34) can be summarized thus: God does not mind His people having things; He forbids things having His people. The things of this world can control you in two different ways. In vv 19-24 we were admonished not to let our hearts find a home here in treasures that will not last. In vv 25-34 Jesus gives a strong word of consolation to those who are tempted to be anxious about their earthly needs. Christ's word of admonition shows us the wickedness of worrying in the presence of the Father. *"The problem with many of us Christians is that we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, but we do not believe Him."* – Lloyd-Jones

A Command of Consolation – This command comes with a tone of care, similar to Jesus' conversation with Martha (Luke 10:38-42).

"Do not worry" (v25) – This is not the same thing as saying 'do not think, do not plan, do not care about'. Farmers must plow and sow in order to reap. We are to work hard or we are not to eat (Prov 6:6-11, 2 Thess 3:10). We are to work hard, because work is a gift, but we are not to work hard because we are worried. There is a godly 'care' and an ungodly 'care' for things.

"Is not life more than..." This first argument is from the greater to the lesser and is the same as - "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" – Rom 8:32. The point is that your life is a gift from God, and a more important gift than all that you need to sustain it. But we do not think of life as a gift anymore. We think of life as an accident of nature and a choice to be made by a woman. It is no wonder we worry so much.

Birds (v26) – This second argument is from the lesser to the greater. Psalm 19 – "*The heavens declare the glory of God*", is fulfilled even in finches and pigeons. Jesus wants you to meditate on something staring you in the face. Have you ever seen a bird with an ulcer? And notice who feeds them – Not *their* heavenly Father, but *your* heavenly Father.

Fruitless Worry (v27) – Your worry does not lengthen your life in the least. Therefore, when you worry, you are acting as though you have control over something that you do not. It was the cares of this life that choked the plants in Matt 13:22.

Flowers (28-30) – Again, we are commanded to *consider*. We are to think, not worry. Flowers are supposed to be your teachers. He is probably specifically talking about wildflowers that no person planted or tended. We do not realize what we are as children of our heavenly Father – "*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think...*" Eph 3:20. If we do not see these things, we are without excuse (Rom 1:19-20).

O You of Little Faith – Jesus will call them this again in two short chapters (Matt 8:23-27).

A Command of Admonition – These commands come with a stronger tone of rebuke.

Speaking Like the Gentiles (vv31-32) – Jesus says when you talk like this, you sound like a pagan, an unbeliever, a Gentile. "*Sons of the King of heaven are not to conduct themselves like the Devil's beggars*" - Pink

Gentiles seek, your Father knows – Here is the great contrast. The unbeliever seeks without consideration of God. He has no faith and no hope. It is all up to him. But the believer knows He has a heavenly Father, not simply a Theistic Being. Having been adopted, we know we "*...are under His fatherly care and dispensations, admitted to all the liberties and privileges of the sons of God, made heirs of all the promises...*"

Implications – Worry is an act of unbelief. It is a grievous sin. And like manure in the ground, worry in the soul is strong fertilizer for so many other sins – of covetousness, bitterness, falsehoods, stealing, to name a few.

Seek first (v33) – Consider this command in light of the order of the Lord's Prayer. To seek first our own concerns is to be self-centered. All concern for our needs must come out of our central desire to see Christ's kingdom.

Grace for Today (v34) – Jesus Christ is very realistic. To command you not to worry is not to say there are not real trials and troubles today.

Appointed Troubles – "For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake." Phil 1:29. God uses these troubles to remind us of our need for Him, of our weakness, and His power. And this chastening produces good fruit – Heb 12:11.

Appointed for Tomorrow – God sovereignly portions out your life. He knows your frame. Worry about tomorrow is presumptuous, and it tends to keep us from working hard today.

Mercies New Every Morning – Consider Lam 3:19-26. God gives grace like manna. If you seek to store up enough for tomorrow, it will rot. But He gives a bounty of grace for today, for He is our great heavenly Father.

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