

**"Don't Worry"**

Luke 8: 1 – 15; Romans 8:18 – 39, Philippians 4: 4 – 9, **Matthew 6: 25 – 34 (Sermon)**

Our text begins with the word **"therefore"** which means we need to look back at the principles Jesus laid down in the preceding verses and to build upon them.

In the preceding verses Jesus is teaching about the Christian's relationship to material possessions and the proper use of the material possessions He has entrusted to us.

In our text for today Jesus is trying to get His disciples to get a proper perspective on the way we are to look at physical possessions as well as the time God has given us on this earth.

In John 10:10 Jesus tells us; ***"I came that you might enjoy the abundant life that I planned for you."***

Now if that is true why is there so much sorrow, worry, fear, and so much depression among Christians?

Why is there a lack of joy and peace in many Christian's lives?

I believe that the answer is in the principles that Jesus gives us in today's scripture lesson from Matthew.

Let's quickly review these principles and then we will go back at see how we are to apply them.

In verse 25 Jesus tells us – *Life is more than food and clothes*

In verse 26 Jesus tells us – *You are very valuable in God's eyes*

In verse 26 Jesus tells us *God is able and God wants to provide for your physical needs*

In verse 30 Jesus tells us *your life on this earth is very short*

In verse 32 Jesus tells us *God already knows your individual needs before you ask Him*

In verse 32 Jesus tells us that *your number one priority is to be your relationship with Almighty God.*

Jesus is not telling us to quit our jobs and wait for God to drop a care package out of the sky on our front step each day.

Although that is exactly what God did for the Children of Israel in the wilderness.

God rained down bread from Heaven, sent quail, provided drinking water out of a rock, and prevented their clothes and shoes from wearing out for 40 years.

But rather, what Jesus is telling us in these verses is ***"Do not be overly anxious about worldly things."***

A Christian's life should **not** be focused on accumulating material things.

Accumulating material things is **not** to be our goal in life.

God created us as spiritual beings and spiritual things are to be the primary focus in our lives.

In these verses Jesus is promising us that **when** we make our relationship with Him our top priority and **when** our top priority is living a life that is pleasing to Him, **then** He will take care of everything else!

That is the proper prospective of physical things and that is the best use of our time while we are on this earth.

Christians are to use the time that God has given us on this earth to prepare ourselves for eternity.

Our job while we are here on this earth is to get to know, to love, to trust, to enjoy, to obey, and to serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are preparing to spending eternity in heaven with our Lord.

In these verses Jesus is telling us we need to **redirect** our focus.

Jesus is saying, *"You worry too much about tomorrow. Focus on today. Live one day at a time."*

Notice Jesus did **not** tell us that we would **not** have problems.

The last part of verse 34, *says "Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

The Bible is very realistic.

The Christian life is not *"pie in the sky for the by and by"*.

Jesus is telling us that **if** we want to experience the abundant life that He offers, we need to get our priorities straight.

In this short passage in Matthew Jesus commands us not to worry four (4) different times.

So, if we are worrying we are disobeying Jesus and if we are disobeying one of Jesus' commandments then we are sinning.

We need to be very clear; worrying is sin for a Christian.

Either we trust God to provide for us or we do not trust God to provide for us!

Worrying about a situation is saying; *God I know you mean well but I do not believe that you can pull this one off.*

Worry keeps us from receiving a blessing that God wants us to receive.

Worry strangles us.

In fact worry keeps us from being free.

In these verses Jesus is saying, *do not be preoccupied worrying about earthly things.*

The key to not worrying is in verse 33. *"But seek ye first God's kingdom and God's righteousness..."*



Jesus is saying, when our number one priority is seeking God and God's righteousness, worry will not rob us of the abundant victorious life that God wants us to experience. (John 10:10 & Luke 12:3 2)

In our lesson from Luke Jesus is teaching about The Kingdom of God.

In this parable the seed that the farmer is sowing stands for The Kingdom of God.

And as you know there is a **present** and a **future** application of The Kingdom of God for us.

Now listen again to Jesus's warning about worrying in Luke 8: 14; ***"The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature."***

You see worrying about our physical needs keeps us from enjoying the benefits of The Kingdom of God.

Again, worrying about our physical needs of money and pleasure keeps us from enjoying the benefits of the abundant victorious life that Jesus promised His disciples. (John 10:10)

Listen carefully, worry and fear are two of the devil's greatest weapons.

Worry and fear paralyze us and they exhibit a lack of trust in our Lord's ability to provide for us and to protect us.

Jesus is clearly telling us that we need to redirect our focus on Him and our spiritual life.

When our number one priority is seeking God and God's righteousness, we will turn our worries and our fears over to Almighty God.

Verse 32 tells us our Heavenly Father knows all of your needs, your fears, and your worries.

We just need to admit our dependence upon The Lord and we need to trust in The Lord.

In 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6-7 we are instructed to ***"Humble ourselves therefore under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all of your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."***

We are commanded to humble ourselves because pride and arrogance deny God's authority over us and our need for Him to be in our lives.

When you worry you in essence saying; ***"God does not want to take care of me" or "God is not capable of taking care of me."***

In our lesson from Philippians, Paul reminds us that when we bring our worries and fears to The Lord, we will experience the peace of God.

God's peace transcends all human understanding and God's peace will guard our hearts and minds.

In our text from Matthew Jesus is also telling us life on earth is short.

We need to slow down and enjoy the life that God has given us.

We all need to stop and take the time to smell the roses.

Jesus pointed to the birds and the flowers and Jesus reminds us that we are much more important than the birds and the flowers.

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift from God.

That is why we call today *"the present"*.

In John Ortberg's article entitled, *"Taking Care of Busyness"*, he said, *"For most of us, the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It is that we will be so rushed, become distracted, and / or get preoccupied with physical things that we will settle for a mediocre version of our faith. We will just skim the surface of our lives instead of really living them."*

If our faith becomes mediocre, we will not experience the abundant life that Jesus promised to all of His disciples! (John 10:10)

In these verses Jesus is telling us that when our number one priority is seeking God and God's righteousness, we will focus on eternal things, not physical things.

Our life on earth is comparatively very short.

For most of us it will be less than 100 years.

In verse 27 Jesus reminds us that worrying will not add a single hour to our life on earth.

However, our souls will live throughout eternity.

And as we know, eternity is a very long time.

Jesus is telling us when our number one priority is seeking God and His righteousness we will meditate on and we will claim the promises of God each day.

For example:

- God is able to do immeasurable more than we ask or imagine. (Ephesians 3:20)
- God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love Him. (Romans 8:28)
- Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. (1<sup>st</sup> John 4:4)
- Our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed. (Romans 8:18)
- The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. (Psalm 23:1)
- I will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)
- There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1)
- If God is for us, who can be against us. (Romans 8:31)

- In all things we are more than conquerors in Him who loves us. (Romans 8:37)  
and the list goes on and on

You see believing and acting on God's promises enable us to experience the abundant life that He promised us because we know God loves us, we know God is in control of everything, and we know God always does what is best for His children.

God's word to us today is clear.

Worrying will not change any situation.

Worry robs you of the abundant life that God has planned for you and the life that God want you to enjoy.

So, you see if you are worrying, you are not trusting The Lord, you are denying God's power, you are rejecting God's love, and you are denying yourself of God's blessings.

Worrying is a sin.

Jesus is promising you that **when** you make your relationship with Him your top priority and **when** your top priority is living a life that is pleasing to Him, **then** Jesus will take care of everything else in your life!

**AMEN**