

Tomorrow
Matthew 6:25-34
Authenticity
(Sermon on the Mount, Part 3)

I have a confession to make today- of something that I struggle with.

A)It is something that **I wrestle** with from time to time in my life.

B)I will admit that there are seasons when I am victorious – **seasons when I keep it in check.**

C)But there are other times where it RAGES out of control.

1)**Keeps me up at night** – causes me to be irritable and hard to live with

D)**WHAT IS MY STRUGGLE? WORRY!**

1)I struggle with worry!

E)I know that I am probably alone in this – because you all are so spiritual and so together – Right?

It has been reported that 89 million people worldwide struggle regularly with Worry, Stress and ANXIETY!

A)It is a huge problem, - It causes people to become **Depressed and Delusional**

B)Not a 21st century thing – NOT AN AMERICAN THING

C)Worry is an age old Problem. {Setting of passage

So Jesus speaking on a Hillside over looking the Sea of Galilee – Probably sunny day – (Normal in Israel)

A)Addresses something that was applicable to 100% of the audience

²⁵“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Pause right there and give me your attention.

First thing we need to note here is THIS: the things that Jesus mentions here were very important to them, but not so much to us.

A)Mostly poor – hard working people – Food, water, clothing were big issues

B)Those were the things they worried a lot about.

C)They are not the primary things that we worry about are they?

1)Most of us are not worried about what we are going to eat-

2)Look around the room **that is obvious** – no one malnourished here.

C)In fact -Some of you – not worried about IF you are going to eat today

1)YOU are worried about WHERE you are going to eat - WHAT

D)Are we all going to agree on the Place - too many choices – mood for Italian, Mexican, Sushi

E)Counting calories – are we going to pick a good place for me

1)Not worried about IF But WHAT WHERE

We are not worried about what we are going to drink – Bottled water everywhere. TONS of beverage choices.

A)We are not worried about what we are going to wear – Most of us have way more clothes than we need.

B)In fact - **Some of you ladies tried on more than one outfit today** trying to figure out what you wanted to wear.

1)AND Some of **you guys probably should have** tried on something else – because what you chose is not working at all.

C)Point is – people living in the first century would have looked at us and thought – You guys probably don't worry about anything/

But we have worries don't we?

A)We worry about – Can we Afford to send our kids to college?

B)Our kids graduating college with Huge student loans are worried if they are going to be able to get Jobs in their Field of study

C)Worry about – Am I going to be able to take care of my aging parents

1)Aging parent worry about - Who is going to take care of me when I can't take care of myself.

D)Some of you are worried about – Are you going to have a job – this time next year!

D)How am I going to pay for my kids wedding?

E)Some of you – Worried – Am I ever going to get married? Am I ever going to have kids.

SO Now that I have made you all feel so much better by reminding you of what you are worrying about. Lets continue. V.26

²⁶ Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

²⁸ “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹ and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?

³¹ “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

Here is what I want to do today as we consider Jesus words.

#1 Why worry is Harmful.

#2 Reasons Jesus gives us not to worry.

#3 How to combat worry.

#1 Why worry is Harmful?

➤ **Worry is Destructive.**

A)The word worry in the Greek language means – to be torn apart!

B)That is such a great description of what worry does. It tears you apart!

C)**Picture a boat in a horrendous storm:** Tossed to and fro by the waves until it literally starts to break in half.

D)That is what worry does – Lives torn apart by uncertainty and unrest.

Our English word worry comes from an Anglo Saxon word that means to Strangle.

A)That too is a good description – Worry strangles your peace – your joy – it can strangle the life right out of you.

B)All of us know what that feels like and I would venture to say that some of you are feeling that way right now!

1)Worry has a STRANGLE HOLD ON YOU!

Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones - “**The result of worrying about the future is that you are crippling yourself in the present.**”

C) Corrie Ten Boom – Hiding place – Survivor Nazi Persecution WWII “**Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, “it empties today of its strength.**”

D)Notice again What Jesus said in V.34 ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

E)Tomorrow has enough problems: Some of you will check your schedules on your calendar tonight – See what is on the agenda for tomorrow.

1)Last thoughts before you go to bed – Anxiety – meeting with so and so

Dr. E Stanley Jones: “**Worry is the interest we pay on tomorrow’s troubles.**”

So worry is harmful because it is Destructive.

➤ **Worry is harmful because it is Deceptive.**

A)The deceptive aspect of worry is it makes us feel like we are actually doing something by being so concerned about a situation.

B) A couple was having problems w/ their teenage Son – started getting into trouble – mother spoke to father – *You've got to do something*

1) His response was *I am doing something – I am worrying about how I am going to pay for it when he really does something stupid.*

C) Jesus addresses this deception head on: v.27
²⁷ Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?

Who of you by worrying has taken a single year off your own life?

Who of you by worrying is driving the people around you out of their minds?

Who of you by worrying has upgraded your wardrobe or reduced your grocery bill?

So if worrying is really not doing anything – Just Spinning plates –

A) If Worry doesn't help you but potentially undermines the length of your life, it makes all the sense in the world for Jesus to say – Don't worry!

B) So it is important that we note - Worry is Destructive, Worry is Deceptive BUT worry is also DE formative.

1) It stunts your spiritual growth!

C) In Fact – Worry makes us like everyone else. V.32 That is what the Gentiles do.

1) They go through life like there is no God –

D) They approach life – like they are ALL ON THEIR OWN!

1) They take matters into their own hands.

E) But Jesus is wanting us to understand a very important truth – WE ARE NOT LIKE THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD!

1) We are different from them – Different Status

2) Which means we should handle these things differently – We are NOT ON OUR OWN!

E) Leads us to our 2nd Main point:

#2 Jesus gives us reasons Not to worry!

➤ You are a person who is valuable to God.

Look at the Birds –

A) YOU might be THINKING - Who has time to look at the birds of the air? – I have a test tomorrow – interview tomorrow.....

B) Look at the birds of the air – NO OFFENSE – Jesus but only old people do that?

C) Only those who have lots of free time on their hands – look at the birds – ARE YOU SERIOUS

1) I don't have time to stand around looking at the birds.

I think the people in Jesus' audience probably felt the same way - the only difference is they were not sitting inside of a building.

A) Jesus probably pointed – as a flock of birds was flying by –

²⁶ Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. {Huge Question} Are you not of more value than they?

Are you not MORE VALUABLE than... BIRDS?

A) **IMAGO DEI** – CREATED IN HIS IMAGE – Day 6 Pause

“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.” – Genesis 1:26

B) **Made with a MORAL COMPASS** – He is made in image of God

1) Uniquely made to live in relationship {God/ others

C) Uniquely made to rule and have Dominion over God's creation.

TRANSLATION: You are the most important aspect of Creation:

A) Sorry **tree huggers and save the Baby Whales group** – God is most into People.

Aa) Jesus left heaven to come and die for people – people made in the image of God!

B) Paul takes it one step further in Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God

prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” – Ephesians 2:10

WORKMANSHIP – Masterpiece – Created in Christ – Redemption

C) So if it is true – Worry is only Harmful and that you are SPECIAL to God

D) Jesus continues

²⁸ “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹ and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?

E) Matthew recording what Jesus said here - uses a phrase here “Oh you of little faith” – that was not commonly used in the Greek language.

The way Matthew writes it here – indicates a bit of sarcasm in Jesus words:

A) Literally read this way - *will He* not much more *clothe* you, YOU LITTLE FAITHERS YOU!

B) Meant to get a chuckle

C) Here is the point – Do you trust God to take care of you.

1) **DO you believe that God wants to take care of you?**

D) If you are more valuable than the birds of the air and the flowers in the field or the grass

1) Can we not trust God to take care of our needs?

NEEDS VS WANTS

A) Is the Job you have taking care of your NEEDS?

B) Yes – but it is not taking care of my WANTS – that is a whole different issue.

C) Has God been faithful to take care of your needs?

JESUS’ point – Analogy using NATURE: GOD holds CREATION together – Word of his Power

A) If God is taking care of creation: Why would you doubt that He Isn’t going to take care of you?

B) YOU ARE more valuable to Him – than anything - He has your best interest at heart.

C) Like asking – **IN A FIRE - Save your Child or a potted plant?**

1) Your Child – Dog spot – Fire – only save one ? Any hesitation

³¹ “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

2nd Reason not worry: Jesus says Your heavenly Father He knows your needs

A) Not only are you VALUABLE to Him – He LOVES YOU so much AND HE KNOWS YOUR NEEDS

B) SO you don’t need to drag tomorrow into today.

C) Important to note: **Father** – That wasn’t the norm

1) Jewish people didn’t refer to God as their father – DISTANCE – too close too personal.

D) Jesus keeps bringing that up – Pray – say our Father ... Can we?

Jesus is expressing relationship.

A) BUT NOTE: **God is not** the father of every human being – He is **the creator** of every human being

B) He is the Father of those who believe –

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” – John 1:12

“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God.” – 1 John 5:1 NLT

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” – Galatians 3:26

Question: Have you placed your faith in Christ – Embraced – He died on the cross for your sins – Rose to give you life?

A) If not – God is your creator and He will be your judge. (What did you do with My Son?)

B) If you have – God is your Father because He judged Jesus in your place

1) You are His beloved Son – His beloved Daughter

C) God who is your Father says: I have got this – I have got you!

1) I KNOW YOUR NEEDS!

3rd Reason NOT TO WORRY: God takes pleasure in taking care of you.

A) In Luke's account of this teaching – he adds – ³² “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

- Luke 12:32

B) It is his good pleasure to give you the Kingdom – Translation He is so blessed by BLESSING YOU! – Believe that ?

C) I about fell out of my chair the first time I read...

1) Believed – I was always having to earn God's favor

D) NO – YOU ALREADY HAVE IT – You are IN CHRIST!

YOUR FATEHR takes pleasure in Blessing you and taking care of you.

A) In other words – your Life is not a burden to him.

B) Some people call – Voice mail – text – hey can you call me { GOT 10 MIN?

1) I get burdened – because I know – they said got 10 min – I know it is going to be a minimum 1 hour

C) **God NEVER FEELS THAT WAY!** Your number shows up on the Heavenly Hot line – He doesn't sigh

1) Excited – Oh Rob is calling –

D) I haven't heard from him in a while - I Get to work in His life:

Most of us who are parents of adult kids Understand this: See we already went through that season – Teen age years – “I don't need your help – advice?”

A) Such a bummer – You want to help right – you want to protect.

B) YOU ARE In that stage: It will pass:

C) My kids are all adults now. I have no greater joy when they call – Dad can you help me with something?

1) **Dad I need your advice: - DANCE**

Get this: Your heavenly Father Knows your Needs – You are more valuable to Him than everything else.

A) It is His good Pleasure to Bless you and meet your needs – DON'T KNOW IF HE'S DANCING – Pleased!

B) So WHY DO WE WORRY?

C) Don't worry is easier said than done! – Easy to say - harder to pull off

#3 How do we do this? How do we combat worry? – PRACTICAL

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

A) You know what is the convicting word in v.33 – **THE WORD FIRST.**

B) If Jesus simply said – **So SEEK the kingdom** of God - Ok – I will add it to the list

C) SEEK FIRST - #1 Priority – Seek first the Kingdom, His righteousness

What does that mean?

A) Seek = To Run after something.

B) The world is running after all sorts of things – You BE DIFFERENT –

C) Seek first the Kingdom: How ? Seek First THE KING of the Kingdom: Daily Devos -

Perspective: Reminded How great God is

A) Seeing him help others – Am I any different than them?

B) Most of the time – Their needs are way bigger than mine.

1) How is your Devotional life ?

C) You run after HIM – Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him

B) **Seek him in Prayer:** Phil 4:6 –

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”– Philippians 4:6,7

C) **Worry is prayer in Reverse: Worry makes my problems get bigger – Pray they get smaller.**

1) Worry is grabbing a hold of tomorrow and dragging it into today

D) Prayer is Seeing them in light of who Jesus is: HIS LOVE -HIS POWER HIS ABILITY

Seek first Him

A) Give yourself to pursuing Him – HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS –

B) Give yourself to being preoccupied with the things that He is preoccupied with –

C) **Kingdom mindset: What does that look like?**

1) So here is a good way to remember this:

When you are tempted to borrow from tomorrow – find a way to participate in what JESUS IS DOING TODAY.

D) When you are tempted to borrow from tomorrow – (that is what worry is – borrowing from tomorrow)

When you are tempted to borrow from tomorrow – find a way to participate in what JESUS IS DOING TODAY.

What is Jesus doing today? Find a way to participate in that

A) **Email a missionary { PRAY**

B) **Call a friend you know is hurting – Pray for them**

C) **Come push a vacuum at Church**

D) **Volunteer for a ministry – Instead of worrying about tomorrow - Participate in what Jesus is doing today.**

E) **I don't have time: Reason? Spending so much time worrying about tomorrow.**

1) **Give tomorrow to Jesus – realize He has got this – He has got you - He loves you**

Get involved in what Jesus is doing today!

Pastor to woman battling worries - stressed Ten things to do

A) **Find someone who has a greater need than yours and**

B) **Response: Declare His love**