

Worry & the Kingdom

Introduction

- experts at worry in our culture
- personally excel at this
- sources I observe: finance, health, family, work, relationships..
- Jesus in our passage – 25,27,31,34 – Don't do it!
- To be concerned is natural, normal – to enter into and remain in a state of worry – sin!

Worry & the Kingdom

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

Worry & the Kingdom

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'" Matthew 6: 25-34

Worry is a trust and Theology Problem

- what I know God promises
- what I believe God will do

Worry & the Kingdom

1. Trust Issues

- don't miss the 'Therefore' – what has just been taught

a) Basic Needs & Trust

- sustaining life - what we will eat or drink

- Jesus clear – birds are looked after, don't sow, reap, store up and yet they are fed by the Father. You are more valuable!

- participating in life – clothes and health

- Jesus clear – lilies of the field are brilliantly cared for, and temporary. You will be clothed.

Worry & the Kingdom

b) Big Issues

- lifespan – adding days to our life
- health – ability to do life, pain and suffering worry us

2. Identity Issues?

- those without a Father - understandable to be concerned
- on their own, no family to fall back on, at the whim of weather, economies, world leaders, without resource

a) Your Father **Knows** your **Needs**!

- almighty God is aware, engaged, able, involved
- show your identity – live beyond this worry that consumes

Worry & the Kingdom

3. Theology Issue

- line up your understanding of God and your actions!

- note – assumes you have understanding of God!

a) Reset Your Focus – ‘seek 1st His Kingdom....’

- ***“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:6-7***

- ***“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil. 1:6***

Worry & the Kingdom

- ***“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” Isaiah 41:10***
- ***“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?” Romans 8:31***

b) Renew Trust – ‘His Righteousness

- ***“When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me? “ Psalm 56:3-4***
- ***“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. “***
1 Peter 5:7

Worry & the Kingdom

- "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Cor 12:9

c) Receive Provision – ‘all these things will be given you’

- "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. " Phil. 4:19

- "The bolts of your gates will be iron and bronze, and your strength will equal your days. "There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides on the heavens to help you and on the clouds in his majesty. The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you, saying, 'Destroy him!' Deut. 33

Worry & the Kingdom

- d) Repeat Daily – ‘each day has trouble of it’s own’
 - interesting that we need to go back to this daily
 - for each trial there will be provision
 - live in faithfulness today, and again tomorrow

Worry & the Kingdom

So What

1. Anxiety & Unbelief are Tied Together
 - worry is a trust issue
 - trust is a faith issue
2. Key Areas of Life 'We Grab On To'
 - food, clothes, health, length of life, family.....
3. We are to Exhibit an Evident Difference
 - not live like those without a Father or resources
 - observe his hand at work in creation

Worry & the Kingdom

- Realize He Knows our Needs and is able
- take provision one day at a time

4. Line Up Your Faith & The Facts – Live This Out

- reset focus – seek 1st
- renew trust – His Righteousness
- receive provision – all these things will be added
- renew daily – tomorrow will have new provision for you