

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

April 19, 2015 ~ Worry

Worry ***"Today is the tomorrow we worried about yesterday!"***

Top Five Things American Worry About (Chapman University, Orange, CA)

5. National Disaster (earthquake, tornado, hurricane)
4. Becoming the victim of identity theft
3. Internet security
2. Becoming sick
1. Not enough money for the future

Worrying is universal. Jesus' audience suffered with worry so much he felt the need to talk about it.

Worry is the preoccupation with tomorrow, things are ok right now, but it's the future I'm concerned about. It's when we get reminded how uncertain things are that we worry even though they were and are always uncertain.

Worry usually makes issues bigger – we tend to focus on one thing that consumes our thinking.

Jesus gives us the solution to worry, most books do not do this. They talk about how to deal with it, and not fixing it.

3 points...

1. Worry does not add anything to your life, not one second, it has no impact so therefore, it's a waste of time and your life.
2. Not worrying does not mean not caring (sow, reap, harvest). Do all you can do and let God do what only He can do.
3. What you are devoted to most, you worry about the most. Devotion sparks emotion, so ask what am I devoted to...

Matthew 6: 25-34

²⁵ ***"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life,*** (comma, PAUSE, this is a command) ***what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?"***

²⁶ ***Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns,*** (contrast – we are supposed to sow and reap) ***and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?***

²⁷ ***Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?***

28 ***“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 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 – you of little faith?”*** Isn't it weird that we think God can take us to heaven when we die, but we doubt he can get us a job and provide for our needs. If we want to stop worrying, we have to embrace the problem which is little faith.

31 ***So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’***

32 ***For the pagans run after all these things,*** (people who do not acknowledge that there is a personal God, you on the other hand believe there is a God who made the world and everything in it, Jesus is saying you are living like a person who does not believe in God)

Why is that important? As Christians we have the same problems as non-Christians but our response should be so drastically different than them that they ask how do you do that – this is our opportunity to shine.
and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

This is what separates non God followers from God followers – do you really believe God knows what you need? Wouldn't life be different if you were absolutely certain that God knew your every concern? Imagine you got a letter saying God knows about your biggest worry for today – just knowing he knows makes a huge difference. The stress level decreases immediately. The bigger your faith in God, the smaller the worry.

The Solution – redirect your devotion.

After Jesus has said we are not as smart as birds and flowers, he gives us the solution.

33 ***But seek first his kingdom*** (your worry is from seeking the wrong things first, this is the transfer of devotion) ***and his righteousness***

As long as our primary devotion is making money, saving money or obtaining more things in life we will never have the peace Jesus talks about (Jesus wants us to seek his agenda for the world and put my agenda second) Jesus said this before when he told us how to pray ***(Thy kingdom come thy will be done ON EARTH,*** that means in your life). It's about surrendering all you have to God. Some don't want to give it all to God (the only other option is worry).

And all these things will be given to you as well (all the stuff you don't have control over and worry about will be given to you. Why? You're more important than birds and flowers!)

34 ***Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow*** (this is where you stop and say thy will be done and you trust God) ***for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.***

Jesus said why don't you concern yourself with today and I will take care of tomorrow. Would you be willing this week to make a list of all the things you worry about in all the categories of life (the, "is not life more than?" section) And give those to God and tell God his kingdom comes before all these.

This passage is an invitation to surrender every part of your life to God. It's not a 'believe that' response. It's a 'trust in' response.