



Do not worry. Your heavenly Father cares for you.

Sermon for October 3 2021

Matthew 6:25-34

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I am going to begin in English, but soon I will change to French.

We have provided translation of the sermon in English on the screen here, and on your tablets in 10 other languages.

Our passage is taken from the Gospel according to Matthew.

This book was written for both the Jewish and the Gentile Christians.

Matthew wants them to see that Jesus Christ is the Messiah and is a blessing to all the world.

Matthew is saying that both Jews and Gentiles can rest in the salvation that Jesus Christ brings.

Through Christ, they all can be citizens of God's Kingdom.

I am going to read the verses in French and then pray.

If you have the translation page opened, you will be able to read the text in the beautiful heart language that God has blessed you with, while you listen to me read.

You will also see the English translation of the scripture reading and the sermon here on the screen.

Please stand up as we hear God's word:

Matthew 6:25-34

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious 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?"

26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?"

28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,

29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"

32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.
33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Let's read together Isaiah 40:8—

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

Let us Pray

Heavenly Father, thank you for today.

We are grateful that we can be here to hear you speak to us.

As you feed us, satisfy our yearnings with Your word.

Grant us the grace to take it seriously as we face the issues of life.

Through Your word, may Your Spirit strengthen us to believe in Your care for us.

Help us, your children, to keep your word central as we seek Your kingdom and Your righteousness.

This we pray in Jesus's name.

Amen.

Raise your hand if you have never worried about anything.

All of us worry.

If we do not worry about what we do not have, we worry about what we have.

Single people worry about getting married.

But they do not know that many married people are worried about their marriage.

What are you worried about?

Being in the best school?

Having the newest fashions to wear?

Are you worried about shoes?

Maybe you are worried about your salvation or that of a loved one?

Are you worried about safety or financial security for your family?

Are you worried about your life?

Are you worried about death?

Listen to this story to somehow appreciate what worry can do to you:

One morning Death was walking into a city when a man stopped him and asked what he was doing.

Death answered, "I'm going into the city to kill 10,000 people."

The man replied, "That's terrible that you would kill 10,000 people."

Death responded, "Taking people when their time has come is my job.

Today I have to get my 10,000."

Later, as Death was coming out of the city, the man met him.

Again, the man was furious.

He said, "You told me this morning that you were going to take 10,000 people, but 70,000 died today."

Death answered, "Don't get mad at me.

I only took 10,000.

Worry killed all the rest."

Worry is a big problem and that is why Jesus spends some time talking about it.

Three points for today's message:

Point 1. Do not Worry about Anything (Matthew 6:25-31, 34)

Point 2. Know that Your Heavenly Father Cares for You (Matthew 6:32)

Point 3. Seek the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness (Matthew 6:33)

Point 1. Do not Worry about Anything (Matthew 6:25-31, 34)

When Jesus tells us not to worry, He is in other words saying, "stop worrying."

Jesus spends much time explaining this point.

Why do you think he does this?

It is because we all worry.

"To worry" is to be troubled, to experience mental anxiety because of a situation that is hard to control.

Basically, it is a battle in our hearts about control.

And this kind of battle is experienced by the poor as much as the rich.

If you are not worried about what you lack, you are worried about what you have.

And yet in this passage Jesus is telling His disciples not to worry about things like food.

Food and life were linked in the garden of Eden.

Because of food, Adam and Eve forfeited eternal life.

Satan thought he could do that with the second Adam, Jesus Christ.

Satan tempted Jesus by telling Him to turn a stone into bread.

But Jesus, whose food was to do the will of God, answered according to God's word.

Christ could not forfeit His life and that of the people He had come to save, merely for food.

Because of the salvation that Jesus won for us, we are completely secure.

Our lives cannot be harmed at all.

So, why should we worry about food?

The life that Jesus Christ offers to those who trust in Him is far better than food!

However, we should worry if we are still in Adam, living according to the flesh.

But if we live in Jesus Christ, neither a lack nor abundance of food should worry us.

Because the physical food we need cannot compare to the eternal life we have in Christ Jesus.

May God open our eyes so we can see the riches we have in Christ.

In verses 28 to 30 Jesus talks about clothing.

Who is born with clothes?

None.

We are worried about the next pair of shoes, or buying brands such as Gucci, Nike, Polo, Adidas.

Not that these things are bad.

As a matter of fact, you all look great in your wonderful clothes.

But think about this: Your body is far better than the expensive clothes you want to wear.

And yet, you only need clothes while your body is still functioning.

Last week I had a car accident.

During the 30 seconds that my car was out of control, I never wondered about clothes or food!

Instead, throughout the accident, I wondered whether I was dying or whether I was still alive.

And the next words that came from my mouth were:

"I am alive, I am alive, Wow! Wow! Wow!"

Those 30 seconds showed me what really matters.

Life in the body.

I got to see that the reason I was still alive was because God was sustaining me.

From life and food, and body and clothes, Christ brings us in verse 26 to nature.

He mentions birds, which would include animals of the field like the squirrels.

He also mentions lilies, which would include the beautiful flowers we see in Virginia.

Who feeds the sparrows, these ordinary birds which do not sow or reap?

Who feeds the squirrels that we see everywhere here in Virginia?

Who makes these flowers beautiful like this?

Friends: I enjoy looking at the flowers here in Virginia as I walk around.

I cannot help but take pictures.

The God who created the world continues to decorate the world with beauty for our enjoyment.

Jesus points us to the fact that Solomon was the richest and wisest man in the world.

And yet, in all his glory, Solomon never looked as good as these flowers.

You were created in God's image, yes?

You are fearfully and wonderfully made, as we see in Psalm 139:14.

After creating human beings, God said something he did not say after creating other things.

He said that other things were good.

But after creating man, God said in Genesis 1:31 that it was "very good."

Because He cares for you and I, God causes plants to grow so we have food in our fridges (Psalm 104:14).

This God who cares for all of you goes as far as knowing the number of hairs on your head. So no part of you can perish without His knowledge (Luke 12:7; 21:18).

Jesus does not want us to worry because: Worrying is exercising in futility (verses 27, 34).

Worrying can't add anything to our being.

Instead, it troubles us all the more.

Worrying about tomorrow makes things even worse.

Because none of us knows what one hour from now will look like.

To worry about tomorrow is like holding the wind in the palm of our hands since we cannot hold the future.

Worrying is having little faith (verse 30).

We worry because we forget that the earth and all things in it are the Lord's (Psalm 24:1).

God promises to provide for His children (Philippians 4:19).

Remember that you might be worried, but Jesus is not worried where He is right now.

He is able to provide peace for you in all your circumstances.

He is with you and in you.

Trust Him.

What are you worried about?

Is your marriage difficult?

God invented marriage, so ask him to repair it.

Are you worried about sickness?

God formed you and sustains you, so he is able to heal you.

Are you struggling in your walk with the Lord?

He saves to the uttermost those who come to him (Hebrews 7:25).

Are you not even sure whether you are saved?

Jesus is a gentle and lowly Savior, today, you can run to him with your heavy burden (Matthew 11).

Are you worried about the future?

He holds it in His hands.

So, my friends, the solution to all human problems are not programs or self-talk words.

The solution is faith in God, the Creator and sustainer of everything he created.

When Jesus says, "do not worry," He is not promoting laziness or carelessness.

We cannot quit working because Jesus said we shouldn't worry.

Rather, we are to prayerfully work hard and make plans for the future.

Because we trust that He will establish the work our hands (Psalm 90:17).

Point 2. Know that Your Heavenly Father Cares for You

Matthew 6:32—"For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all."

You are more precious to God than anything else he created, as we saw in verse 26.

You are created in His image (Genesis 1:27).

It is because of God's love for His image bearers that He initiated redemption.

Salvation is our basic need because our basic problem is sin.

We do not need food, clothing, and other things as much as we need eternal life.

We need to know God personally and have a relationship with Him (John 17:3).

We need to be restored to His presence because sin robbed us of this privilege.

His promise is that He will be with us.

God's presence was encouraging and comforting to Joshua as he led God's people to the Promised Land.

God told him in Joshua 1:5:

"No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life.

Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.

I will not leave you or forsake you."

Brothers and sisters, you need God's presence with you.

Because if you are with the One who owns the earth and all that is in it what can you worry about?

Of course, nothing.

Do you know that He loves you to the point that He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16)?

Hear what Paul says in Romans 8:32—

"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

God's Son is named Immanuel, which means God is with us (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23).

If God Himself is with us, we cannot doubt His care for us.

He knows what we need even before we mention it and he has promised to provide for us.

Remember what Paul writes in Philippians 4:19—

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

We all may worry about our health, safety, security, future, marriage, etc.

When we do, let's claim this promise that is ours in Christ and put it in the first person.

"My God will supply every need of [mine] according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Knowing this helps us focus on matters of first importance: seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

This leads me to our third point.

Point 3. Seek the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness (verse 33)

Matthew 6:33—"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

God's Kingdom and righteousness are linked.

We cannot speak of the kingdom without speaking about righteousness.

Because without righteousness, no one can enter this kingdom.

Only Christ qualifies as the perfect citizen of God's kingdom.

He is the only one whose complete desire is to do the will of the Father.

Contrary to Adam, Jesus did not disobey God's will because of food when Satan tempted Him.

Instead, Jesus said in Matthew 4:4:

"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Jesus was not worried about food.

For Jesus, doing the will of His Father is more critical to living than food itself.

John 4:34—

"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.'"

In fact, by His life and death, Jesus fulfilled all the righteousness we need.

To seek the kingdom of God means believing that He owns and rules over all things.

When we do this, God will provide what we need, so long as it aligns with His will.

Like we saw in our sermon series on marriage, all has gone wrong because of Adam's fall.

But thanks be to God for Christ's perfect obedience to God's will.

Jesus has perfect righteousness so that He is the perfect Seeker of God's kingdom.

We are not like him.

So, for us to seek the kingdom of God, Christ has to carry us.

Because only Christ has the righteousness that this Kingdom requires.

Have you put your trust in Him?

As we trust that only Jesus is able to carry us, we learn that God is the one who is over all things.

We understand that He is the only one who can save us from our sin.

We understand that in the kingdom of God we have all our needs provided for.

And seeking that kingdom becomes our priority.

How do we seek this kingdom?

Like Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, we seek God's kingdom by aligning our wills to the will of our heavenly Father.

Seeking God's kingdom includes these things:

Accepting Him as the king and Lord of all aspects of our lives.

It is depending on His rule and committing to His service.

Trusting Him for all we need for faith and life, in this life and that which is to come.

Because for those who are in Christ, great things are yet to come.

Things which "no eye has seen, nor ear heard..." (Corinthians 2:9).

Do you trust this?

Or do you just think that these are only some empty religious ideas?

This is real my friends.

Yes, you need material resources in this life.

Yes, you want your relationships to work well.

But you need God first and foremost.

So, seek His kingdom and His righteousness.

Seek a relationship with Him, by trusting in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, for you.

Ask Him to make this message real to your heart.

He has provided several means of grace to help us in this life.

These include prayer, fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ, worship, and studying God's word.

We also receive grace when we hear the word preached and participate in the sacraments.

These things empower our faith when times of worry and anxiety come.

Children of God, let us not worry, because our heavenly Father cares for us.

Instead, let's seek God's kingdom while we live here under His rule.

Lord help us.

Let us pray:

Lord, thank you for feeding us.

Thank you for reminding us of Your care.

Help us not to worry about our circumstances.

We want to be people who are first and foremost concerned about Your kingdom.

As Your Spirit empowers us, we want to be people who trust in the righteousness found in our union with Your Son Jesus Christ.

For in Him, we can have assurance in the eternal life and Kingdom citizenship that He has gained for us.

Therefore, heavenly Father, help us to be joyful and at peace no matter what.

Be with us and lead us always.

In Jesus's name, we pray so.

Amen.