



St. Paul Evangelical Community Church (SPECC)

Worship Address : Cerritos High School Auditorium
12500 E. 183rd St., Cerritos, CA 90703
(Enter at Bloomfield, across Heritage Park)

Mailing Address : 11428 E. Artesia Blvd. # 4 ; Artesia, CA 90701
562-924-5051

Website : www.sp-ecc.org

March 28, 2010

Theme: Worry Not!

Text: Matthew 6:25-34

This section is all about worry. It begins with a "therefore." What this means is that it is directly connected to the passage we read last week, which ended with this verse: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." This means that there is a direct connection between the level of anxiety in a person's life and the god whom he/she serves. If a person bows down at the altar of wealth and possessions That person will probably have high anxiety because things are temporary. God is eternal. Only what is eternal can truly satisfy us and liberate us from anxiety.

Jesus gives several reasons why His followers should not worry.

(1) The first truth is that we must admit that we are not in control Jesus asks, "Is not life more valuable than food, or the body more than clothing?" Jesus expects a yes answer from everyone in His audience. Jesus reminds His disciples that they did not bring themselves into this world; God did. God gave us life and God will especially provide Jesus' disciples what they need to live—including food and clothing. Worry often begins with our need to be in control. The more we try to be in control, the more we realize that we can never be fully in control. This creates anxiety. We must release control into God's hands.

(2) Disciples of Jesus are God's treasure. The second thing Jesus does is to point to nature. He observes that the birds of the air do not plant crops, reap harvests, nor store the harvests in barns. Yet God takes care of them. Then He asks, "Are you not much more valuable than they?" The expected answer is, "Yes, we are much more valuable than birds." The conclusion is that if God values the birds so much that he feeds them, He will certainly care for the needs of His children.

(3) Jesus then asks his disciples whether any of them can add to his life by worrying. Of course they cannot. Since they cannot accomplish this—or anything else by worrying—why worry? It accomplishes nothing for the good, and at times makes matters worse. It is waste of time all around.

(4) The earth is temporary, disciples are eternal. This is another truth that draws upon a Biblical view of God's relationship with nature. Jesus teaches that it is God who provides the flowers of the field with their beauty. Their beauty was greater than Solomon's—which was legendary. Jesus knew that God was absolutely sovereign over every element of what we call nature. God did not merely set the universe in motion and then let it go



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like a mechanical toy to move in whatever way it wanted. He is the One who is active in giving the flowers of the field their color—even though they last only a day. If God is so closely involved with the flowers of the field which lasts only a day, how much more will he not be intimately involved in the lives those who are destined to live for eternity? The expected answer? Much more!

(5) Related to this issue is the subject of faith. If the disciples knew their Bible they would have known that God is sovereign over creation. They would be included in that sovereign care—and even more because they were disciples of Jesus.

(6) Worry is the way of the unbelieving world. The word that is translated "pagans," in the NIV means, "Gentiles." The Gentiles were known to the Jews as people who were ignorant of the True God of Israel. One result of their ignorance of God was that they ran after material things. Jesus wants His disciples to stand apart from the world by living for God's kingdom and by trusting in his care. He reminds them that God is their Father who knows all about their needs. He teaches them that if they, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to their children, how much more will God not give good things to those who ask them?

(7) Finally, Jesus gives a positive command: "But seek first the kingdom of God, and all these things will be given to you as well." I seek the kingdom by striving to follow and obey Jesus with the help of the Spirit. I seek to be obedient to Christ in all that I think, say, and do. Seeking the Kingdom must be the prime objective in my life. If that is true, God will take care of my material needs as well. This is not a guarantee that we will become wealthy. It is a promise that we will find security in contentment in Christ by faith. However if God does bless us and make us wealthy, we must be sure to use that wealth to advance God's kingdom.

Jesus concludes by saying that we must live one day at a time rather than worrying about what may or may not happen in the future. This does not mean that Jesus tells His disciples not to plan. But when they do plan, they must leave those plans in the hands of God and not worry about them. God is sovereign over every part of our lives. Our best weapon in the fight against anxiety is to rest in his almighty power and to believe that we are part of his plan and purpose for the world. We are incredibly small in God's sight, but He does not lose sight of us. Therefore: Worry not!