

## Jesus Gave Seven Reasons Not to Worry

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to store their treasure in heaven as they make the Lord the Master of their lives. Jesus went on to teach the disciples that when they made the Lord the Master of their lives, they would have seven reasons why they did not need to worry. Those seven reasons will be the focus of this topic.

In Matthew 6:25-27, we read, “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? 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? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?” Here, we see that Jesus began these verses by listing several things about which we do not need to worry as we seek to store up heavenly treasures. We do not need to worry about our life, what we will eat, what we will drink, or what we will wear. First, we see that God gave us the greater, our life, so He will give us those things that are less. Since God gave us life, He will certainly give us the food and the clothing that we need to carry out the plan that He has for our lives. As a result, we can trust the Lord to supply our basic needs.

Second, we see that God provides for the birds that are smaller so He will certainly provide for our needs, since He has given our lives much greater value. The birds do not plant crops. They do not harvest crops and store them in barns. Luke 12:24 says, “Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds?” In this verse, we are reminded that the ravens do not have either a storehouse or a barn. Just like the other birds, they have to depend on God to supply their food. Then, Matthew 10:29-31 says, “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” In these verses, we see that our heavenly Father knows when every single sparrow dies. At the same time, He also knows how many hairs we have on our head and knows exactly how many hairs we lose each day. God tells us that our lives have much more value than many sparrows.

Third, we see that it is a waste of time to worry. We cannot add one cubit to our height by worrying. A cubit is the distance from the tip of your finger to your elbow and is usually about 18 inches. We cannot grow taller by worrying. In the same way, we cannot live longer by worrying. In fact, Hebrews 9:27-28 says, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.” God knows the exact moment when we will die and that will not change. As a result, instead of worrying about that time, we should focus on the fact that Christ is coming back to take us to heaven. Then, we will realize that it is a waste of time to worry and we can enjoy every moment of the life that the Lord has given us.

We go on to read, in Matthew 6:28-30, “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 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?” Fourth, we are reminded in these verses that the care God has for us is even greater than the care we show to ourselves. This time, Jesus used clothing to illustrate the care that God has for us.

Jesus told the disciples to take a look at the lilies around them. The lilies cannot work to make them beautiful. They cannot spin to make cloth to cover them. Then, Jesus reminded the disciples that even Solomon could not make himself look as beautiful as the lilies in the field. In 2 Chronicles 9, the queen of Sheba came to visit Solomon. She heard his wisdom and saw his clothing. She also saw the clothing of his servants. Then, she said, in 2 Chronicles 9:3-6, “And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers and their apparel, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her. Then she said to the king: ‘*It was* a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. However I did not believe their words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half of the greatness of your wisdom was not told me. You exceed the fame of which I heard.’” Jesus said that the lilies are even more beautiful than the clothing of Solomon.

Then, Jesus said that since God can make the fields look beautiful with their grass and the lilies that grow in the fields, even though those things only last for a short time, certainly God will provide us the clothing that we need. Jesus went on to point to the disciples the reason why they worried, by saying, “O you of little faith.” What was true of the disciples is also true for each one of us. The reason why we worry is due to the fact that we have little faith. We try to determine how to meet our needs through our own efforts, instead of depending on the Lord for all things. We try to solve our problems by depending on ourselves instead of yielding to the Lord. In John 15:5, Jesus said, “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” In contrast, Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Then, Philippians 4:19 adds, “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” God knows our needs and so He promises to supply our needs.

Matthew 6:31-34 goes on to give us the final three reasons why we do not need to worry. Those verses say, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.” Fifth, we see that we do not need to worry because the Father knows what we need. Three common questions of those who do not know the Lord are: What shall we eat? What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? They ask these questions because they do not know the Lord.

In contrast, the disciples were reminded that their heavenly Father knows they need all of these things. The same is true for us in our lives. Our heavenly Father knows what we need. One of the things we often need to learn is the difference between our needs and our wants. Our needs are the basic necessities for our lives. 1 Timothy 6:6-8 says, “Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.” Then, Paul wrote, in Philippians 4:11-12, “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.” We see that Paul did not automatically have this contentment from the moment he became a follower of Christ. He had to learn to be content and that is something we also have to learn.

Sixth, Jesus told the disciples that they would not need to worry if they chose to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness. That meant that they turned the control of their lives over to the Lord instead of depending on self. The kingdom of God is the salvation that we have through Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21 then explains,

“For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” God the Father made Christ to be sin for us during the time that He hung on the cross in the darkness from the sixth to the ninth hour. That was done so that we would be able to receive the righteousness of God at the moment that we repented of our sin of unbelief. When we come to God by faith in Jesus, He promised the Father would meet the needs that we have in our lives.

Seventh, we see that Jesus told the disciples that they did not need to worry about the future but to live and trust the Lord each day. Many people worry about the things that might happen in the future. James 4:13-14 says, “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’; whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.” Here, we are reminded that we have no idea what may happen tomorrow or next year. We need to live with the knowledge that Jesus may come and take us to heaven tonight.

Jesus told the disciples that tomorrow will worry about its own things since we do not know what will happen tomorrow or next year. The Father is in control of the things that will happen then because He knew what will happen tomorrow before He ever created the world and will use it for our good. In Romans 8:28-29, we are told, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” We want to show our physical and spiritual children, by our example, that we do not need to worry. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children turn their worries over to Christ.