

DAY BY DAY WITH CHRIST

SCRIPTURE Matthew 6:34: "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. When Jesus tells us, "do not be anxious about tomorrow," He is calling us to trust God in His sovereignty. God commands tomorrow. The phrase, "about tomorrow," most literally means, "towards tomorrow," with the main idea that anxiety is often the result of bringing tomorrow's troubles into today. Read Proverbs 27:1 and James 4:13-16 and discuss how we can make much of Christ by trusting a future we do not know to God whom we do know. How can we truly trust God with eternity if we do not trust Him with tomorrow?

2. Discuss the various ways that God expresses His care for us in this passage as reasons against anxiety:

- (1) If our treasure is with God, our hearts will be at peace (6:20)
- (2) If our spiritual vision is set on God, we will be filled with light (6:22)
- (3) If we love and are devoted to God, He is a trustworthy treasure (6:24)
- (4) Life is more than earthly (6:25)
- (5) You are more valuable to God than all other creatures (6:26)
- (6) Anxiety will only shorten life, not extend it (6:27)
- (7) Your purpose is much greater than the rest of creation (6:30)
- (8) You are known and loved by God, who is your perfect Father (6:32)
- (9) Your heavenly Father knows your every need (6:32)
- (10) You will receive more in Christ than you ever lose in this life (6:33)
(Read Matthew 19:28-29; 5:6, 8, 10; Luke 12:31-32)
- (11) What you worry about might never happen (6:34)
- (12) God gives grace in the moment for the moment (6:34)

DISCUSSION GUIDE

3. Read Exodus 16:4 and Matthew 6:11. God does not promise that He will give us today all that we need for tomorrow—His grace provides day-by-day. Discuss this principle and how you can apply it to your life. Reflect on the title of the sermon: Day by Day with Christ.

4. While Jesus gives us abundant reason to trust in Him day by day and therefore not be anxious, He also calls for us to be responsible. When He says, “sufficient for the day is its own trouble,” He is calling for stewardship of life day by day. Being responsible sometimes means having deep concern about people. Read 1 Corinthians 12:25, Philippians 2:20, and 2 Corinthians 11:28. In each of these verses, Paul uses the same word for “anxiety” to express a godly concern. Read Mark 4:18-19 and then discuss the differences between the following principles:

- (a) **Strong Care + Wrong Treasure = Sinful Anxiety**
- (b) **Strong Care + God-centered Treasure = Godly Concern**

5. Jesus explains that those who seek God and His kingdom will still suffer evil in this life. The King James Version translates this last clause quite literally: “Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” The word for “trouble” is literally “evil.” Read Isaiah 26:3 and Philippians 4:6-7. Notice that freedom from worry is not due to freedom from evil, trouble, pain, or suffering. An important principle is given in each of these examples. Finish the principle that was stated in the sermon: “Peace is not measured by the absence of trouble but _____. Read Hebrews 13:5 and discuss this important principle.

6. Clearly Jesus is not saying, “Don’t worry, if you follow Me, I will supply all your earthly needs—health, wealth, prosperity, safety, and long life.” Jesus did not come to earth, live a perfectly righteous life, suffer and die a most heinous crucifixion, and rise from the dead so that we may have a more comfortable few decades of life on a cursed planet. He is not calling us to change our worry without changing our treasure. That’s the whole point of His opening exhortation (6:19-21). Read the following passages and discuss how when they are combined with our focal passage (Matthew 6:19-34) it becomes clear that God is the only treasure that cannot be taken from us—that treasuring God, not merely trusting Him with earthly treasures, is the only final antidote to anxiety in this life: Luke 14:26–27; Matthew 10:21–22; John 16:2; Romans 8:16–18; Philippians 1:29; 2 Timothy 1:8-12; 1 Peter 4:1-2, 12; Acts 5:41; 1 Corinthians 15:19; and 2 Corinthians 4:6, 16–18.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "[Disciples] see that for all the jollity on board, the ship is beginning to sink. The world dreams of progress, of power, and of the future. But the disciples meditate on the end, the last judgment, and the coming of the kingdom. To such heights the world cannot rise."

7. Treasuring God—seeking God as the highest value in our lives—is the grand call of this entire passage. Which best describes the difference concerning anxiety between pagans and children of God (6:32-33): (a) pagans do not have God as father to provide them with health, wealth, prosperity, safety, and long life, and children of God do; or (b) pagans seek after self-centered, earth-bound priorities, while children of God seek after God-centered priorities. Read and discuss how the following verses address anxiety: Mark 12:30; Isaiah 12:2; Psalm 27:4; 56:3; 31:14; 37:4; 42:1; 43:4; 63:3.

Philippians on Anxiety

We would do well to remember that Philippians 4:6 is rightly understood only in a context that prioritizes the following: Philippians 1:12-13, 21-23, 29; 2:21, 30; 3:7-8, 19-20. After these truths are owned in the heart can we then rightly discern the deep satisfaction that comes only in Christ and not changed circumstances expressed in Philippians 4:6-7, 11, and 19.

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Philippians 1:21

Jeremiah Burroughs: "The sight of the excellency of Jesus Christ is to continue, and thy calling out of the creature, and thy casting of thy soul upon Christ as a King, still receive him day by day; and the subduing of thy heart, and the surrendering of thy self up to God in a way of Covenant; now if this were but daily continued, there would be no space nor time for murmuring to work upon thy heart."