

MATTHEW 6:25-34

1. In this passage, Jesus addresses the subject of worry and anxiety. Jesus first gives the command to not worry about our life (what we eat, drink, or wear) because life is more than about what one eats or wears. He then gives the illustration of birds to point out that His disciples are of much more worth than them. Knowing that God provides for the birds, how does that give us assurance and peace, knowing that we are made in His own image and the capstone of His creation?
2. Jesus next points out that worrying is foolish because it cannot change our situation. Not one hour can be added to our life by worrying so it is ridiculous to do so. Warren Wiersbe said: "Most Christians are being crucified on a cross between two thieves: Yesterday's regret and tomorrow's worries." What can our worry communicate to God?

Why do we worry so much about tomorrow?

What do we think worry will accomplish?

Jesus refers to the realm of nature again with his reference to lilies and grass to point out that God takes care of what belongs to Him. Since God brings about the beauty of lilies and bluebonnets (here in Texas) for just a short season and then they are gone...how much more will he provide for us and our physical needs?

3. Finally, Jesus points out that worry is foolish because it is the attitude of pagans. The pagan world is concerned with the material things of life and not of spiritual matters. But the one who pursues spiritual things and seeks God's Will and His kingdom will also receive from God material provision.
What should we spend our time and energy seeking in this life (see Matthew 6:33)?
4. Read Luke 12:32. In this parallel passage, Jesus tells the disciples not to fear. He compares them to a little flock...a defenseless group that could be preyed upon. To make them even more defenseless and dependent, Christ instructs them to sell all of their possessions and give to the poor. Jesus' point was that if His followers had a treasure on earth they would dwell upon it. But if they instead had a treasure in heaven, which is safe from theft and decay by moths, and were "rich toward God" (Luke 12:21), they would be more concerned with things related to the kingdom and therefore wouldn't worry.
How can you grow in your "richness toward God"? How do you think this would affect your levels of worry and anxiety?