

Soli Deo Gloria

Mt 6:24-34

Do Not Worry

We worry

God gives us the antidote

Intro: Insomnia. Acid reflux disease. High blood pressure. Anxiety. Panic attacks. All these can be the result of excessive worrying. Maybe some of us suffer from these things as a result of worrying. Worry is a big problem even for Christians like us. But Jesus has words for us worriers. His admonition is very simple and it is very direct, do not worry. Then, as Jesus always does, he gives us the reason why are not to and do not have to worry, the providential care of our heavenly Father. Jesus' word to us today is Do Not Worry. 1) We worry. 2) God gives us the antidote.

I. We worry

A. Jesus' disciples worry

1. the disciples of Jesus' day
 - a. what shall we eat? what shall we drink? what shall we wear?
 - b. the disciples' of Jesus' day were worried about having or obtaining the necessities of life
 - c. their worries fir their time and their circumstances
 - d. these people were relatively poor – they didn't have much and they didn't make much
 - e. it would be very easy for them to worry about finding or replacing a cloak or a pair of sandals
 - f. or to worry about where their next meal was coming from
 - g. they were anxious about where the necessities of life would come from or if they would have enough of them

2. Jesus' disciples today

- a. not much has changed over the centuries
- b. like Jesus' disciples of old
- c. we disciples of Jesus still worry about the necessities of life
- d. about where they will come from or if we will have enough
- e. except our worries fit the times in which we live
- f. maybe some of us are still worrying about where the next meal will come from
- g. or, when we see the cost of gas and food skyrocketing
- h. we might worry about how we will pay our bills and support our families
- i. perhaps we worry about how we will be able to afford the replacement car for the one that just died
- j. maybe we worry about our tenuous job situation and how losing it will affect how we will be able to support our family
- k. or, when we see the price or medicine and medical and dental care rising astronomically
- l. we worry about whether we will be able to remain healthy or not
- m. our worries are many and they vary from person to person

B. Worry is a sin

1. a sin of which we are all guilty
 - a. but all our worries are unfounded and unnecessary
 - b. and they are sinful
 - c. worry is an unwarranted lack of faith in God's providential care

- d. it is a sin of which we are all guilty
- e. over and over and over again
- f. and it is a sin that warrants eternal death like all other sins against a holy God
- g. repentance is in order for all of us
- h. we will confess our sins of worry and all others to God
- i. plead for his mercy
- j. and trust that he has forgiven us for the sake of Jesus
- k. who lived and died to save us

2. Jesus lived and died for us

- a. Jesus never worried as he lived his earthly life
- b. think about the account of Jesus stilling the storm
- c. in the midst of that terrible, life-threatening storm
- d. where was Jesus?
- e. he was asleep on a cushion
- f. demonstrating a perfect trust in his heavenly Father and his providential care
- g. living perfectly in our stead
- h. and Jesus kept that perfect trust in his Father all the way to Golgotha
- i. where he trusted his Father's saving plan
- j. that he should give up his life in payment for the sins of the world
- k. and there he did give up his life to death
- l. fully trusting that his Father would raise him again
- m. in order that he might be victorious over sin, death, and the grave
- n. so that we might be victorious too

Trans: We worry and our worry is a sin. Yet, it is a sin from which we are cleansed by Jesus' blood. In light of what Jesus has said to us and done for us, worry is not something we want to continue to do. Let us, therefore, see what God's antidote for sin is.

II. God has the antidote (24,33)

A. God needs to be number one

1. God will be our number one priority

- a. life is all about priorities
- b. assigning the things of our lives differing levels of importance
- c. in order to combat worry
- d. we will make God our number one priority
- e. our God will be the one thing that is above all other things in our lives
- f. we will serve God alone
- g. and seek his kingdom and his righteousness
- h. we are part of God's kingdom through our baptism
- i. God graciously rules in our hearts and lives through the gospel message
- j. God is our Father and we are his children
- k. our number one priority in this life will be to
- l. maintain that status, strengthen that status, and help others attain that status
- m. along with that, we will seek God's righteousness
- n. we are righteous in God's eyes through faith in Jesus
- o. and in this life our priority will be to live as the people we are
- p. to live lives that are pleasing to God and in line with God's will
- q. all this will be done through the gospel message in Word and Sacrament
- r. this message will secure our status as member's of God's kingdom
- s. give other people the same status
- t. and empower us to live righteous lives

2. all material needs will be given

- a. when we do this, when we make God our number one priority in this life

- b. a wonderful thing will happen
 - c. Jesus promises that all our material needs will be taken care of
 - d. the same gracious God who made us a part of his kingdom
 - e. and who made us righteous through faith in Jesus
 - f. will supply all of our material needs
 - g. for this reason, we do not have to worry
- B. God cares about us and provides for us
- 1. God will sustain our life
 - a. but there's even more reason for us not worry
 - b. (25-32)**
 - c. Jesus' first argument goes from the greater to the lesser
 - d. he states that since God has given us our bodies and life
 - e. he will never fail to sustain that body and life
 - f. but will sustain it
 - g. by providing all that we need for body and life
 - h. for that reason, Jesus says, we do not have to worry
 - 2. we are important to God
 - a. Jesus' second argument is just the opposite of the first
 - b. it goes from lesser to greater
 - c. he states that if God takes care of birds and lilies
 - d. even though they are rather unimportant and insignificant
 - e. won't he take even greater care of us human beings, the crown of his creation
 - f. of course he will!
 - g. for that reason, Jesus says, we do not have to worry
- Concl: There is absolutely no reason whatsoever for us to worry. God has made sure of it. Therefore, fellow Christians, do not worry!