

The Devil's Diversion

Sunday Morning, October 25, 2015

Thesis:

Worrying diverts our attention from God's purpose for our lives.

Introduction:

All people worry. Especially the poor and needy.

According to Dewayne Gomez, the Mayo Clinic claims 80-85% of total caseload due directly to worry and anxiety. Many experts say that coping with stress is the #1 health priority of our day. One leading physician has stated that, in his opinion, 70% of all medical patients could cure themselves if only they got rid of their worries and fears.

We know that medical science has closely tied worry to heart trouble, blood pressure problems, ulcers, thyroid malfunction, migraine headaches, a host of stomach disorders, amongst others. For example 25 mill Americans have high blood pressure due to stress/anxiety; 1 million more develop high blood pressure each year. 8 million have stomach ulcers every week 112 million people take medication for stress related symptoms.

Read the Text: (Luke 12: 22 – 34)

22 Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on.

23 Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing.

24 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?

25 And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

26 If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest?

27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

28 If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?

29 "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind.

30 For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things.

31 But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys.

34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

I. Why is Worrying Harmful?

1. Worrying is Foolish

(Luke 12:24)

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?

2. Worrying brings blindness to spiritual truth.

(Luke 12: 25 – 27)

25 And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

26 If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest?

27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

28 If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?

Trust God that He loves you and that He will provide for you. For you are more valuable to Him than anything He created!

II. Four Things We Can Do to Combat Worry

1. Believe that God knows your needs.

(Luke 12: 29 – 30)

29 “And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind.

30 For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things.

2. Focus on God's Kingdom Work for you.

(Luke 12: 31)

But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

3. DO NOT yield yourself to fear.

(Luke 12: 32)

“Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

4. Live simply.

(Luke 12: 33 – 34)

33 Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys.

34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Note:

- ✚ Sell what is superfluous.
- ✚ Have a lack of attachment to the things of this world.
- ✚ Give to the poor.

Money bags that don't wax old.

"Waxed Old" - term for aging.

= Approximately - resources of grace and mercy never run out or grow old.

Vs. 34 - let our treasures be the things of God in Christ our Lord.

Conclusion:

Worrying diverts our attention from God's purpose for our lives.

You must hand over to God every facet of your life. Your work, your play, your plans and your relationships!

You need to ask yourself if "seeking the kingdom of God" is the central theme of your life? If you stay focused on his will he will undoubtedly watch over every aspect of your life.

You need to read this letter each and every day of your life.

Good afternoon,

I am God. Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help. If the devil happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, DO NOT attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFJTD (something for Jesus to do) box. It will be addressed in MY time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold on to it or attempt to remove it. Holding on or removal will delay the resolution of your problem.

If it is a situation that you think you are capable of handling, please consult me in prayer to be sure that is the proper assumption.

Because I do not sleep or slumber, there is no need for you to lose any sleep. Rest, my child. If you need to contact me, I am only a prayer away.