

Jesus moves from the subject of greed to that of worry. Have you ever considered how the two sins are connected?

Why is worry so prevalent and debilitating? Its widespread presence in the hearts of humanity should be proof that we live in a fallen world. Adam's sin radically affects everyone alive. **This world is not a safe and secure place.** Things are not right because people's hearts are alienated from their Creator. Creation does not exist in its original created orderliness. God had judicially sentenced our rebel parents, "You are OUT of the Garden. Expelled.!" So why do we say, "But don't worry"?

"Don't worry, be happy." The world can so exhort, but for what reasons? None sound. **Those outside of Christ ought to be worried.** But God commands us – "Fear not, but rejoice always" - and gives solid reasons on several levels.

We can distinguish two different words for "worry" or "anxiety" in the passage. The word most frequently found and translated "worry" or "anxiety" is a compound word that literally means "to have a divided mind" or "to be distracted between things." We have eyes trying to focus on two things at once. We have one foot on the road, the other in the ditch. In verse 29 another word is used, *meteoridzomai*, to be of a doubtful mind, to be in suspense, anxious, uncertain.

We can also distinguish three different words for "life." In the New Testament there are words which convey the concept of biological life – *zoe* and *bios*. The word used in verses 22 and 23, however, is *psyche*, understood more in terms of soul-life. Although all men will someday experience the reality of the cessation of bodily life, the life of the inner man, the life of the soul, is inextinguishable.

Worry assumes that I can control things, like God does. "Central to worry is the illusion that we can control things. 'If only I could get my retirement right, I could be in control of my future.' 'If I could get my diet and medicine right, I wouldn't get cancer.' 'If I could figure out the right technique to raise my kids, I could guarantee their happiness and my peace of mind.' Worry assumes the possibility of control over what is not controllable. This illusion lurks inside your anxiety. Anxiety and control are two sides of one coin. When we can't control something we worry about it" (David Powlison). If that "coin" has a name, **it is pride** (hubris is a better word). **A lot of Christian "service" can be done out of worry.** The Martha problem.

So really, we don't have an anxiety problem. We have an idolatry problem. It is the problem of what we worship. We must realize that "worry thrives when worship dies." Worry magnifies the "problem"; worship magnifies God. "Those who know Thy name will put their trust in Thee; For Thou, O LORD, hast not forsaken those who seek Thee" (Psa 9:10).

The reasons not to worry:

Life is more than food and clothing. Do you think that men rich in this world's goods have no worries? The opposite is true. Are you more valuable than a raven?

Can worrying add any length to your life? It will undoubtedly subtract from the length and quality of your life.

Won't God be more apt to clothe you than the grass of the field that is so insignificant?

Don't be like the pagans. "Holiness (apparent in separation from sin, together with simple trust and hearty obedience) befits Your house, O LORD, forever" (Psa. 93:5 Amp).

Christ commands you not to do it.

Most of all, your Father knows what you need. Will He not be pleased to supply? Not only that, **"it is His good pleasure to give you the kingdom."** But only those are God's children who have "received Him" (John 1:12).

Once again, we have a reminder of the "put off" "put on" principle. It is not enough to not set our hearts on perishable, pseudo wealth. We ought (have the obligation) to invest in that which is imperishable. Jesus is not teaching us to sell all our belongings. Then we would need to receive the alms. But don't hoard wealth in order to trust in it. Don't accumulate more than you need. **Trust is a choice.** "I have to remember that whenever I feel buried under care, the real issue is pride and self-sufficiency. I must deliberately and specifically cast my cares upon Him and thereby humble myself under His almighty hand (C. J. Mahaney). The issue is not God's undependability. It is my pride that resists trusting Him to trust me.

The command to us is to "seek" His rule in our lives. God's promise is to "give. We seek and trust in a hostile environment. The issue is not our circumstances; it is how we interpret our circumstances. Take advantage of treasures that will never fade away. Guard your hearts from covetousness.

If there was ever a man who had "something to worry about" it was the Lord Christ. And yet He never succumbed to this sin, not even once.