

Precious Words to a Precious People

Luke 12:32

Luk 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

For several years a woman had been having trouble getting to sleep at night because she feared burglars. One night her husband heard a noise in the house, so he went downstairs to investigate. When he got there, he did find a burglar. “Good evening,” said the man of the house. “I am pleased to see you. Come upstairs and meet my wife. She has been waiting 10 years to meet you.”

Many of us act as this woman did. We spend so much time being anxious that we seem almost eager for bad things to happen. But when we worry, our faith is diminished. Solomon must have been speaking of the uselessness of worry when he wrote,

Psa 127:1 A Song of degrees for Solomon. **Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh *but* in vain.**

Psa 127:2 *It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: *for* so he giveth his beloved sleep.*

People tend to worry! When something occurs in our lives that we cannot control, we worry. When something appears on the horizon of our lives that looks bad, even though it may or may not happen, we worry. We worry about big things, and we worry about little things. The point is, we worry!

A lot of us are like the fellow who raised chickens, and among them was a rooster that occasionally crowed and greatly annoyed the next-door neighbor. Early one morning, disturbed and angry, he called the owner of the flock and made this complaint, “That miserable bird of yours keeps me up all night!” “I don't understand,” was the reply. “He hardly ever crows; but if he does,

it's never more than two or three times in a whole day.” The man quickly retorted, “That isn't my problem. It's not how OFTEN he does it that irritated me! It's not knowing when he MIGHT that keeps me awake!”

In the verses that preceded our text, Jesus had spent some time telling His disciples that they did not need to be eaten up with worries and fears. They were children of the King and He would see to the needs that arose in their lives. In verses 22-24, Jesus pointed out God's gracious provision for the birds of the air, and then He reminded His disciples that they were of more value than the birds. Then, He reminded them of the folly of worry in verses 25-26. In verses 27-28, He compares them with the flowers of the field, that are so lovely, and He reminds them that they are more precious than the flowers. Then, in verses 29-31 He tells them that the secret to having their need met is to live for the Lord! If they will only love God, then they can rest free from the worries of life. God will see to the need of His people!

Jesus concludes His words of encouragement with verse 32. In this little verse, He speaks some much needed words of peace, to a people who are prone to worry. He opens this verse with a command. Notice that He tells us to "fear not". This is a command for us not to live in a state of continual worry. It is the same word from which we get our word "phobia". We should not allow ourselves to live in a worried state concerning the affairs of life.

In this verse, Jesus gives His precious people three precious words of encouragement as we face the trials that will come in life. I would like to share them with you this morning.

I. He Speaks to Us As His Flock

By using the word flock, Jesus pictures the people of God as sheep and Himself as our Shepherd. While there isn't enough time this evening to discuss all the similarities between us as His sheep and Him as our Shepherd, there is time to say a word or two about how good Jesus is to His children!

Like sheep, the people of God are often oblivious to the dangers surrounding them, they do not possess a good sense of direction, and they are utterly defenseless. Like sheep, we must have a Shepherd to provide for us, to protect us, and to lead us along. Look at the troubles, and hardships we have faced, are facing, and will face during the course of our lives. We got into some of these on our own, some were brought upon us through others, and a small percentage could be categorized as “life happens”. But, imagine how difficult life would be without a shepherd to love us, protect us, and guide us along.

One of the most precious passages in all the Bible is the 23rd Psalm. In that great passage, we are told about how Jesus, the Good Shepherd, cares for His flock. Let's turn there for a moment and notice some of these blessed truths.

Psa 23:1 A Psalm of David. **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

Here we see that Jehovah, the self-existent, eternal One, is not just the Shepherd. It is much more personal than that. He is my Shepherd, He is your Shepherd. And He takes care of our every need. How much worry, and grief could we rid ourselves of if we just learned to rest in that truth.

Psa 23:2 **He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

He leads us to a place where we can be fed and refreshed, and then makes us quit flitting about and rest. It is in this place, if we allow it, that we will find peace and contentment.

Psa 23:3 **He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

By the things He provides, the sheep are restored and healthy. He sees that they have all they need in their lives. They are cared for

completely. He gives His sheep perfect leadership.

Psa 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

His sheep have no fear because they know He will never leave them, nor forsake them. With His rod and staff He fights off their enemies, and helps them back when they stray.

Psa 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Again, we are reminded that our Shepherd provides everthing His sheep need. He binds up His wounded and cares for them graciously. He gives His sheep more than they could ever wish for.

Psa 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

His sheep can rest in the knowledge that for as long as their journey lasts, the blessings of their Shepherd will follow close behind them. His sheep are not just sheep for the pasture of this world. But, like precious pet lambs, they have access to His House at the end of the day.

We are His flock! Therefore, we need not fear anything life brings our way. He will see to the afflictions that threaten His flock!

II. He Speaks to Us As His Family

Let's look back at our text. The use of the word "Father" tells us that we are more than His sheep, we are also His sons! That is a precious truth! It is made even more precious because the Bible

It is a medical fact that over 51 diseases can be traced directly to worry! Don't let worry eat you alive! Instead of worry, learn to look around and see what opportunities God is giving you to serve Him. Seek His kingdom and He will see to your needs.

I will close with the great words of wisdom from Mickey Rivers, former New York Yankees outfielder, "*Ain't no sense worrying about things you got control over, 'cause if you got control over them, ain't no sense worrying. And there ain't no sense worrying about things you got no control over, 'cause if you got no control over them, ain't no sense worrying about them.*"

That's good advice! Don't worry about the things under your control, just handle your business. Don't worry about the things out of your control, just Let go, and Let God. Trust Him to handle your business. Most everyone here has a lot on their plate in the wake of the storm from this last week. When you leave here today, those problems will be there to face you when you get home. And new hardships are going to confront you in the days to come. I would remind you that these things are only temporary. You should also remember that the world is watching to see how you handle yourself. You have a fantastic opportunity to be a witness to these people, and to show how great your God is. I would also challenge you to remember this morning that you are a precious people in the eyes of God! Let these precious words help you when the weight of the world begins to wear you down.

sons, but this portion of Scripture leads me to believe that we are spoiled too. God will meet the needs of His children.

Php 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

He will see to it that His sheep are properly pastured and that His sons are well taken care of.

Notice Luke 12:3.

Luk 12:31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

This verse teaches us that seeking our needs met hinges around this business of seeking first "the kingdom of God."

Mat 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

That is, when we place the Lord and His business ahead of our own, He will see to it that our business is taken care of. In the simplest of terms, this means that if I want God to meet my needs, then I need to put Him first in my life and attend to the business He has called me to. Primarily, I am to seek His kingdom! I am to place His work and will ahead of my work and will. He must come first!

God, like a loving Father, places everything we need right at our feet. He makes it easy for His children to serve Him and, as a result, to get their needs met. When this really dawns on us, we will finally realize that we do not have any needs as long as we are where the Father wants us to be. It may appear that needs exist, but they are mere opportunities for the Father to manifest His love and grace toward His children!

Mat 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

says right here that God is "YOUR" Father! That makes it personal! That makes it precious!

It is interesting to note that the Jews had dozens of names for God. What they needed at any given time usually dictated the name that they used to call on God. For instance:

1. If they had a need in their life, they would call on "Jehovah-jireh", which means, "The Lord will provide."

Gen 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

Gen 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

Gen 22:14 And Abraham called the name of that place **Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.**

2. If they were anxious, they would call on "Jehovah-shalom", [Judges 6:24](#), which means "The Lord our peace."

Jdg 6:23 And the LORD said unto him, Peace *be* unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die.

Jdg 6:24 Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it **Jehovahshalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.**

3. If they were lonely, or afraid, they might call on "Jehovah-shammah", which means "The Lord is there."
4. If they need leadership, they would call on "Jehovah-rohi", Psalm 23:1, which means "The Lord our Shepherd."

5. If they were sick, they would call on “Jehovah-rapha”, which means “The Lord our healer.”

Exo 15:26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for *I am* the LORD that healeth thee.

There are literally dozens more, but you get the picture. When these people needed to get a hold of God, they referred to Him by these various names. However, for those who are in Jesus, there is a different name that we can use to speak to God. This name was revealed to the Disciples in Luke 11:1-4 in what is known as “The Lord's Prayer”, but is more correctly “The Disciple's Prayer.” Here, the disciples, who have witnessed the amazing prayer life of Jesus and who want the same access to God what to know how to pray. I can imagine them waiting to hear which name He would give them to use in their prayers. Imagine their surprise when Jesus spoke the word “Father.” Which, in this passage, is the Aramaic word “abba”, which translates to the English word “daddy.”

Jesus is telling these men that when they pray they are to call on God as their Father! He is not some far away God Who is removed from their difficulties, but He is an adoring Father Who is more concerned about what His children are facing than they can ever imagine!

Here is the point! If you are saved, you are a child of God. 1Jn 3:2 tells us that:

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Your Heavenly Father loves you and He is concerned about what you face in life. Therefore, He has opened the door of access into

His heavenly throne room and He invites you to come to Him and make your requests known. He will not turn you away!

Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

I don't know how it is with you, but when my children have a need, I want to make sure that need is met. There may be times when I have to say no to their wants, but if I can provide even that I will. Every parent in this room is the same way! We love our children and we want to take care of them. If we, as human parents, can love our children to the point that we will give them anything, within reason, why should we believe that Jesus would do any less for His children? In fact, the Bible tells us that God is even more likely to be good to His children than any earthly parent.

Mat 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

Mat 7:8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Mat 7:9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

Mat 7:10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

Mat 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

III. He Speaks to Us As His Favorites

The last part of verse 32 tells us that God delights in giving His children the kingdom. You see, we are His sheep and we are His