

Your Father Knows

Luke 12:22-40

What do you worry about? We each have our own list, but some common ones are health, money, kids, parents, job, our congregation. We're doing okay, but things could be better. The last time I visited the doctor he told me I was doing fine but I could stand to get a little more exercise. As a congregation we are doing okay, but Sunday school and confirmation classes will be starting up in a month. Will enough teachers step up to serve? Will it be as much of a struggle as it was to find volunteers for vacation Bible school?

Jesus tells us not to be anxious about our life which includes finding teachers, but . . .

We agree with Jesus that we shouldn't worry. And Jesus isn't the only one who tells us this truth. People from every field of human care agree with Him. Worry is not good for our minds or our bodies.

And we know that worry is useless. *"And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?"* Jesus asks. And we know the answer.

We also know, at some level, that worrying is a sin against the First Commandment. When we worry, we are not trusting in God above all things. In fact,

our anxiety elevates us to be in the place of God, as if we could control what will happen in our future.

But this agreement and knowledge, and even this confession of sin, does not stop us from worrying.

Jesus shows God's care for us by using birds and flowers to illustrate the point. God, His Father and our Father, provides for birds and flowers. He knows what they need and gives it to them. You are more important to Him than birds and flowers. If God takes care of them, He will surely care for you.

The fallen creation provides a confession of God's faithfulness. Birds don't worry about their food. Flowers by their beauty praise their Creator.

Jesus speaks through His creation to encourage us to let God be God and that we also be His trusting creatures. But . . . even this ongoing display of God's care does not stop us from worrying.

Jesus shows us that the real reason for our worrying is that we are seeking the wrong things. *"For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you."*

Jesus calls us to repent of our false seeking and to trust Him. But . . . even acknowledging that we're

seeking the wrong things doesn't stop us from worrying.

God does something unexpected about our worry. None of us like the idea of someone breaking into our home. And yet, that is just what the Father sent His Son to do. Jesus breaks into our lives to steal away our worry.

As He began His ministry, Jesus lacked food for forty days in the wilderness. He lacked a place to lay His head, to call His home. Jesus lived with all the reasons for worry, but He lived perfectly worry free for you.

As His work was almost finished, Jesus was thirsty as He hung on His cross. He was stripped of every bit of clothing, so that, unlike the flowers, He had "*no beauty that we should desire him*" (Is 53:2).

When Jesus had nothing, and even His life was taken from Him. Jesus gave us everything. The real and only reason not to worry is: "*It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*"

The kingdom of Jesus is ours, not by our worrying, but by His cross and rising from the grave to live for us.

The kingdom is ours, even when we worry, because of His grace.

The kingdom will change our worry into freedom to share, to give, to store up real treasure that we don't have to worry about. In repentance, we acknowledge that we can't stop all worry in our lives – that our trust is in the Lord's forgiveness for our worry.

The King will come again, and by the grace of God, we will be waiting for Him, worry free – because He frees us – to enter the fullness of His kingdom forever.

There will be no worries there. And that changes the way we see things now. We know this fallen world all too well, and we know ourselves. But . . . while we always have things that worry us and we cannot stop our worrying, the King takes away the guilt our worry. And ours is the kingdom in which there will be no more worry. Amen.