

## **A Worried Christian...cont.**

Jesus categorically prohibited worry in a familiar portion of the Sermon of the Mount – Matthew 6:25-34. Three times in that short passage He commanded, “Do not worry!” , and the way He said it shows the comprehensiveness of His charge. In verse 25 He acknowledges worry as a common practice and says, “Stop worrying;” in verses 31 and 34 He uses the same word, but in a way that means “Don’t even start worrying.”

We saw last week how the worrier strikes out at God. I want to point out a few more attributes of the “worrier.”

The Worrier Disbelieves Scripture. It breaks my heart to hear Christians who claim to believe in the inerrancy of Scripture, and then live as perpetual worriers. If you do that, you are saying one thing out of one side of your mouth, and another thing out of the other. It is out of line to say how much you believe the Bible and then worry about God fulfilling what He says in it.

The Worrier is Mastered by Circumstances. When you worry, you are choosing to be mastered by your circumstances instead of by the truth of God. The trials of life pale in comparison to the greatness of salvation. Jesus wants you to realize it doesn’t make sense to believe God can save you from eternal hell, but not help you in the practical matters of life. The Apostle Paul reflects a similar desire in Ephesians 1:18-19 when he says, “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.” When you catch yourself worrying, go back to Scripture and let God open your eyes again.

Worry is Unwise Because of Our Future. Jesus said, “Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matt. 6:34). He was saying, “Don’t worry about the future. Even though it will have its share of problems, they have a way of working themselves out at the time. Just deal with them as they come, for there’s no way to solve them in advance.” Providing for tomorrow is good, but worrying about tomorrow is sin because God is the God of tomorrow just like He is the God of today. Lamentations 3:23 tells us His mercies “are new every morning.” He feeds us like He fed the Children of Israel – with just enough manna for the day.

Worrying paralyzes you, making you too upset to accomplish anything productive. It will seek to do that to you by taking you mentally into tomorrow until you find something to worry about. Refuse to go along for the ride. The Lord says you have enough to deal with today. Apply today’s resources to today’s needs or you will lose today’s joy.

**God gives you the glorious gift of life today; live in the light and full joy of that day, using the resources God supplies. Don't push yourself into the future and forfeit the day's joy over an anticipated tomorrow that may never happen. Today is all you really have, for God permits none of us to live in tomorrow until it turns into today.**

**Donald**