**Matthew 6:25-34**

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? **26**  Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? **27** And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? **28** And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, **29** yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **30** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? **31** Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **32** For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. **34**  “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

**“Christ Cares For You!”**

 Grace, mercy and peace be unto you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen. When Jesus tells us, “Do not be anxious about your life” is far from promoting laziness. The word used by Jesus for “anxious” actually has a good and bad meaning. In a good sense, it means concern or care for things in life and vocations to uphold. We want presidents to be concerned about our nation, pastors caring to preach the Word of God in truth and purity, doctors to value the health of their patients, and parents to be responsible with their children. Even LWML Sunday, wants to raise concern about showing the love of Christ to others in our lives.

 What Jesus is talking about from our reading is anxiousness in the bad sense. This means being overly concerned about something or we know it best as worrying. Of course, this anxiety can be a disorder, lead to health problems, and even destroy relationships. To understand those words, “Do not worry about your life.” We need to go back one verse. Jesus exposes the problem saying, “You cannot serve God and Money” (Matthew 6:24). The Greek word used for money is more than wealth. It includes all the physical stuff we need or could ever want. Not to worry about your life is to deny worshiping whatever this world has to offer as if it were God. Luther puts it this way, “The best possessions are not the ones that come from our planning, but the ones that come by chance and from God’s generosity.”[[1]](#footnote-1) Seek God’s kingdom and His righteousness because Christ cares for you!

 In order to have the cure, there must be a diagnosis of the sickness. Jesus cares to show us what fills our lives is anxiety. As we come before the Lord confessing our sins in thought, word, and deed. It is the thoughts of man that are the hardest to handle, since they are close to our hearts. This is to think God has no concern for our situations in life. Isaiah described the same with Israel, “But Zion said, ‘The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.’” Jesus used the birds of the air and lilies of the field to prove how foolish such thinking is. To deny God’s love for our life leaves only emptiness. This emptiness will even turn to evolution for answers, which only makes man’s existence meaningless.

 Beyond thoughts are the words we use that come riddled with worry. Jesus describes what this sounds like, “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’” This is where asking questions is not helpful, but more like a panic attack. It means paying no attention to what God says in exchange for words that would give control to sinners. Rather than trusting in God, man answers all his questions, but the answers are shortsighted. The modern age has answered many questions about the world, but the cost is not less but more worry and anxiety. Words of concern crowd out God’s faithfulness. Words of alarm cause confusion over what is good. Words of man can finally give no stability to sinners.

 As if words were not enough, deeds are what seal the deal with worrying. To deny God’s work is only to create one heartache after another. This is what all the nations of the world struggle over without success as kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall. Jesus said, “For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.” This “seeking after” has the character not of faith, but the worship of works. It is the busyness of what comes with greed over this world. The consuming power of such work is as Jesus describes in the parable of the sower, “the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful” (Matthew 13:22). No matter what we are doing, no matter what the situation there is something more important.

 Having heard the diagnosis of our sickness, the cure is clear. Jesus cares to let the anxious find refuge in Him. Seek to know His thoughts for He values all. The Old Testament God showed the value of man by allowing animals and even crops for sacrifice. Yet, the Father sending His Son made the true sacrifice displaying our value for all time. We have something better than creation defining our worth; Christ has done it by His death and resurrection. On the night when He was betrayed, Jesus was not thinking of Himself but came to remove all worries. The Lord’s Supper lets us know God is extremely concerned about our situations in life. It is not to be empty, but filled with the true body and blood of Christ. His forgiveness is refreshing for, “…He who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them.”

 Beyond Christ thinking of us in love, is what He says to redeem the anxious. Seek to hear His Word for it gives faith to sinners. There will always be questions, but how can we live with them? Our control must come to terms to trust in God. Christ speaks not merely to give answers about life. His Word actually clothes us with what He has won in exchange for all our questions at the present. Christ lays this beauty upon us by baptism into Him. This is the long-term commitment of God’s faithfulness. “All who believe and are baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16). The cost for this answer is not more worrying, but a confidence to trust in Christ. His Word crowds out whatever sin stains our life with forgiveness. His Word defends us to know what is good for life. The Word of Christ is a firm foundation that will never fail.

 At last, Christ stomps out every kind of work for He alone saves. Seek to receive His deeds for they undo sin, death, and Devil. As the nations struggle over works, Jesus reigns by His kingdom able to give what all need. This is the more sensible seeking that He invites any to find in His Word and Sacrament. He comes to make busy lives have room to receive what cannot be taken away. He promises death will not ware out the victory of life we have in Him. He tells us, “Our Father knows all that we need,” so daily troubles are dealt with by prayer. Jesus even changes the greedy to serve by way of sacrifice witnessing to the glory of His cross. Success comes by God’s service as He puts it in the fields, with what He gives to heal our bodies, and the full deliverance of life everlasting promised for us by His Son. If any of it rested on us, our anxiety would put us to shame. Seek God’s kingdom and His righteousness because Christ cares for you! Amen. Now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, be with your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting. Amen.

1. Luther’s Works, Vol. 21 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)