

Thursday, February 25

Today's Reading: Matthew Chapter 6

Today's Devotional Message is by Pastor Don Moorman

"Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things." Matthew 6:33 (TEV)

This verse is preceded by Jesus telling us not to worry. He tells us not to worry about having enough to eat, drink or wear and not to worry about how long we'll live. It's not that these are unimportant. They are. It's just that worry can be of no use to us in any of these areas. It's a kind of brooding, panic producing fear that something is not going to go right for us regarding the necessities of life or even life itself.

But here's the problem, worry, even outside any spiritual reference, is unproductive in securing what we want. If you're a basketball player and you're at the free throw line and you're worried you'll miss the shot, your worry drives way up the chances that you will. At work if you're worried you'll lose your job, the energy you spend worrying is energy you don't have to give to your job. The less energy you have to give to your job, the greater the possibility you'll do it poorly enough that you will lose it. If you constantly worry about your health and how long you will live, you'll stress every system in your body and that will probably shorten your life.

The first reason worry is worthless is that the boomerangs against you. It often keeps you from getting or avoiding what you worry about.

How often are your worst nightmares realized? For most of us the answer is, "Very rarely". The second reason worry is worthless is because it embraces all kind of pain you'll never have to experience. Why embrace the evil you were never meant to embrace?

But the ultimate reason why worry is worthless is that it ignores God's loving care for your life and His power to provide for your needs. You replace God's grace with your own will and resources. If you're trying to live life out of your own resources, there's definitely reason to worry, not that it'll do you any good.

What's the alternative to worry? Faith! Faith in a God who loves you enough to send his Son, Jesus to die for your sins; faith in a God who promises you eternity because of the resurrection of Jesus; faith in a God who holds all the resources of the universe the palm of his hand. With that kind of faith you can, as Jesus invites in the verse above, focus on God and what it means to live as his faithful child "and he will provide you with all these other things." Life can be abundant only when it is lived in abundant faith in an abundant God.

Prayer: Caring Father, I have often thought that my worrying was necessary to provide for my life. Help me believe and live that it is only by focusing on your eternal love that I will receive all the provision necessary to live a life that gives you glory. In Jesus' name. Amen