

Series Big Idea – We are Stronger Together

Brick vs. a Wall – A brick can’t keep anything back...but a wall can | Stand together...stronger

We are stronger together...We Must Increase Our Confidence in the Lord | Open Bibles = Luke 12

Context: Rich Fool – Asks Jesus to demand portion of inheritance | You’re worried about wrong thing

Parable – Rich Man has plenty...(19) *And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ - I’ve got to be good...I’ve got stuff...nothing to worry about!*

- Terrifying correction - (20) *But God said to him, ‘Fool!’ This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ | Whose stuff, is it? | What are you trusting...w/ soul (21) So is (a fool) the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.’*

Jesus now uses this interaction with rich fool to teach His disciples a lesson about the futility of worry

- ‘Worry’ – An excessive, unhealthy, and unproductive concern for something | Anxiety X4
Nobody disagree...worry is a bad thing: Degrades your health – Decreases productivity – Paralyze
- Often lost on us – **Our Worry Dishonors God** | Diminishes depth of God’s gracious love and care
Big Idea – Transfer our Attention from Worry to Trust | Transfer is important...

We have all said the next stupid thing...‘Don’t worry’ | Toy Story | Pink raccoon eating peanut butter

- Instead of focusing on what we worry about – What to do with worry...why | **READ**

To Transfer our Attention from Worry to Trust

1. Surrender Your Worry to God (22)

²²And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on.

Command: Do Not Be Anxious About Your Life | Eat – Body – Wear | Basic needs for life...don’t worry

- *I feel like I should* | Food? Shelter? Clothing? | **Display faith: starve, be homeless, and naked?**
We display our faith when we trust the Lord will provide for our needs

None: Food – Shelter – Clothing | Most affluent – indulged – comfortable society ever | Most worry
Etymology of Worry – Condition of being raised up - Suspended in the air – Swinging out of control

Worrying = Reality – Kids | Health | Relationships | Finances...swinging out of control

- **Need in your life comes up instead of fighting the worry...surrender it to God | Admit & Trust**
Transferring your attention...energy...from the worry...to the Lord | Admitting & Trusting
Does that mean...lay back and hope things fall from the sky? Righteous Actions – Trusting Results
- *The Ache of life is more than you are able to endure...alone | More than you can handle...bunk Caden – Clothed & Inside | Father provided | When we worry about our needs...act like we’re Fatherless*

Three reasons we surrender our worries to God...

a. God has promised us more than this world (23)

²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.

Filling your stomach – completing your wardrobe – Putting a roof over head isn’t what life’s about

- They are *lesser things* – ‘More Than’ | Not insignificant...but there is something more...what?
(20) *But God said to him, ‘Fool!’ This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is (a fool) the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.’*

Placing yourself under God’s loving, sovereign, rule & reign – ‘This night your soul is required of you’

- One day we will all hear those words...*how will you respond? Look at all that I built...not enough It isn’t what I can give you Father...it’s what I believe the Son has already given you...Perfect Sacrifice*
What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul? What can man give in return for his soul?

Elon – 268 Billion – Every person planet \$30 – Still have 28 Billion! MEANINGLESS IN GOD’S ECONOMY

- **Surrender our Worry...In Jesus...this is not the end – It’s a sliver | Bottle of water in the Ocean**

Everything this world is lesser – We can surrender our worries to God...promised more than this world

b. God has provided for us in this world (24) | It isn’t just about what’s to come...now

²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! | 10 to 1 Jesus just looked up to illustrate this point

Ravens like crows...bigger | Scavengers - Produce nothing...store no food...voracious appetites

- Ugly – Squawking – Wild Fierce Eyes – Unclean...Lev. 11 / Deut. 14 – **Lesson in Faith**

‘Watch how I take care of the birds...how much more will I take care of you...trust me’

Human beings are the apex of God’s creation – Made in His image and likeness

Juxtaposition – Ravens are worthless...I take care of them | *You...you...you need to hear this...*

The universe is contained within God – 100 billion galaxies | Every person 8 and still have 10 billion

- Each galaxy made up of 100 billion stars – 93 billion light years – Each light year 6 trillion miles
Humanity is the most loved and cherished of all that God created and controls

When we say, ‘You are Loved’ – at the end of the service...we cannot grasp the enormity of 3 words

His love isn’t measured in miles – Light Years – Stars or Galaxies...Provision...He has provided

God provides everything from: breath in our lungs...money in our bank...salvation stored up in Heaven

Dani - Jehovah Jireh...God Provida | Need a reminder...look to the birds...how much more

c. God has a purpose in everything (25-29)

²⁵And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?

Summarize – It doesn’t make sense to worry...b/c it doesn’t change a thing | Never has...never will

- If can’t change even the smallest thing by worrying...why try it with bigger things? | Futile
George MacDon – ‘When tomorrow’s burdens are added to today’s the weight is more than one can bear’
Worry takes the burdens of the future & adds them to today...solves no problems | 10 to 1 looked out...

²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!

From the gross birds of the air to the beautiful flower of the field | Solomon...greater than all kings

- Flowers don’t work – wear God gave them...sit in sun ‘See how beautiful the thoughts of God’
Flowers are more beautiful than Solomon ever was – God will clothe you more than the flowers

- ‘Alive today, and tomorrow thrown into the oven’ – Grass burned because wood was scares

- o God had a purpose in burning the grass – God has a purpose in your hardship...trust Him

- **Why do we have a hard time with this? ‘O you of little faith’ | Little faith...not no faith**

If I persist in worry...I’m displaying a lack of faith: Control | Capable | Care

Nothing Good – Nothing Bad...Escapes God | Allows or Ordains all things...Trust Him | BO NEUHAUS

Sometimes how God provides for us is in hardship...what if you’ve been called to this to trust Him?

2. Surrender your worry...Seek God’s Kingdom (30-31)

²⁹And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

This whole text could be summarized by: ‘Do not worry about your life...instead, seek His kingdom’

- Seek His Glory – Advance His Purposes – Submit to His Plans – Obey His Word

- o **‘For all the nations of the world seek after these things’ | Pagans seek worldly and worry**

We’re called to find freedom from worry about subsistence needs of life & be concerned w/ His Kingdom

Transfer our Attention from Worry to Trust = **Vertical Vision - Off Earth and towards Heaven**

- **Take the one or two serious worries you have...right now** | Vertical Vision
 - o *Surrender them to God* – Even Physically if you have to | Worship in the waiting
 - o *Focus on God* – His Kingdom – His Purposes – His Presence
 - o *Trust Him* – He’s not distant or unconcerned – He Created – Knows – Loves & Provides
 - o *Pray* – Get on your face and pray until the worry goes away | Prayer leads to peace

Get your brothers and sisters involved...Vertical Vision...Transfer our Attention from Worry to Trust

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