

Earlier in Jesus' sermon He tells us to pray, "Our Father, your kingdom come (indeed it must come...)." Now he tells us, "Trust the Father, be generous, and it will come with all its justice!"

Conclusion

- A. God is calling us to be agents for His Kingdom. To succeed, it requires generosity.

- B. How are you doing with worry?

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What is a common understanding of the goal of Jesus' instruction not to worry? Does this express how you've viewed the text?
- What is the goal of the text? Is it possible to "not worry" and still not achieve the goal of the text?
- What does "not worrying" have to do with having "a righteousness that exceeds that of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law"?
- What does "not worrying" have to do with the fact that you cannot serve God and Mammon?
- How are you doing with worry? Are you content with today's bread? Are you afraid about tomorrow's bread? Why does this matter?
- How does worrying about food, drink, and clothing impact the effectiveness of the coming Kingdom of God in our lives?
- Read and discuss the summary statement at III. A.

DISCIPLE 1.0 Don't Worry; Be _____!

Jerry Cisar — May 12, 2019

Text: Matthew 6:25-34

Introduction

- A. Context matters!

- B. What is the goal of this text? Is it, "Don't worry; Be Happy"?

- C. Don't Worry; be _____!

I. Worry Leads to Stinginess

- A. "On account of this..."
 - i. Why birds and not squirrels or ants (Prov. 6:6-8)?

 - ii. Jesus has already told them, "Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you." (Matt. 5:42)
 - a) 6:2 – compassionate giving
 - b) 6:11 – Prayer for needs being met
 - c) 6:15-18 Fasting oriented toward helping the needy!
 - iii. Greed is evil, and anxiety about our needs leads to greed.

- B. Fear drives human oppression and is that the root of what makes the empires of this world work!

Lange: "Anxiety, which is distrust of God, is the source of avarice (greed)."

Anxiety, worry about our own needs, prevents us from allowing all things to become new!

II. The Foundation of Worry Free Living

A. Birds of the air... (26)

- i. Birds don't just sit on their nests waiting for someone to bring them food!

Jesus is not promoting laziness but generosity.

- ii. The choice of metaphor is determined by the message.
 - a) Birds do not worry about their food... they go about their labors and God meets their needs.
 - b) If God feeds that which is worthless... how much more will he feed you... for you are not worthless!

B. A Self-Evident Proof! (27)

- i. Worrying about these things has no benefit!
- ii. Why do some translations read, "Can't add a cubit to your height."

C. Flowers of the field and Solomon (28-30)

- i. Should we labor?
- ii. There are plenty of wild flowers that never make it to maturity because of drought.
- iii. What's the point about Solomon?
 - a) Positively: *Solomon was greatly arrayed, but the flowers are even more greatly arrayed.*
 - b) Negatively: *Yet not even Solomon, who because of his greed amassed great wealth to himself by making many labor and spin, was dressed like one of these!*

D. "You of little faith"

III. The Purpose of Worry-Free Living (31-33)

A. The purpose of worry-free living is not so that you could have a stress free life. The purpose of worry free living is so that the life-giving, in-breaking kingdom of God can transform the world through you!

- i. Don't worry; be _____ is the only way that the gospel, which is good news to the poor, can actually be good news!
- ii. Don't worry; be _____ in order that you stop seeking first, everything the people who don't know God seek first, and start seeking first the reign of God and His justice!
- iii. Don't worry; be _____ so you can set things right in the world!

B. Worry throws our priorities out of wack!

- i. Food, drink, and clothing are very legitimate needs. (1 Tim 6:8)
- ii. When we trust and don't worry, we can gladly be generous and the kingdom comes more and more through us.

C. Jesus isn't only telling *the rich* to be generous, He is telling all disciples to be generous.

The world isn't waiting for rich benefactors to change it, it is waiting for the sons of God, rich and poor alike, to become manifest! (Rom 8:19)