



SERMON

Combating Worry (Matt 6:25-34)

DATE

May 13th, 2018

1. Would you consider yourself an anxious person? What do you worry about?

COMBATING WORRY REQUIRES:

2. THE RIGHT MASTER

- a. Read Matt 6:25. In beginning with the word, "Therefore", this verse shows the glorious implication of the truth in verses 16-24: Once you have the proper treasure, focus and master, then anxiety will cease.

Why are our anxieties so related to what we treasure, focus and are mastered by?

- b. When our treasures are threatened, we get anxious. In this way, our treasures master our peace, our joy and our very souls. What earthly treasure can your heart not bear to lose? Which master are you trusting to give you security?

- c. Read 1 Tim 6:17. What words are used to describe riches in this verse? How can our lives be truly changed when we see earthly treasures and masters for what they really are?

3. THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

Examine Matt 6:26-32 and answer the following questions:

- a. What illustration is used in verses 26, 29-30? What do these verses teach us about God's care for his creation? What do these verses teach us about our value?

- b. What does verse 27 teach us about our inability and foolishness?

c. How do verses 30-32 relate our anxiety to our unbelief?

d. Charles Spurgeon:

"The very essence of anxious care is the imagining that we are wiser than God, and the thrusting of ourselves into His place, to do for Him that which we dream He either cannot or will not do!"

From verses 26-32 and the quote above, it is clear that anxiety fosters the following lies: "God doesn't care enough to sustain me. I'm not valuable to him. As such, I need to take things into my own capable hands. I don't believe God is big enough here." Do you recognize that your anxiety fosters these lies of unbelief in your heart? In what ways do you "imagine that you are wiser than God"?

How can meditating on this passage help us to kill the pride of our anxiety?

e. Read Rom 8:28-32. According to this passage, how is the gospel the ultimate evidence of how God's care, esteem for us, wisdom and trustworthiness?

4. **THE RIGHT PRIORITY**

a. Read Matt 6:33-34 and Hudson Taylor's quote below:

"Let us give up our work, our plans, ourselves, our lives, our loved ones, our influence, our all, right into God's hand; and then, when we have given all over to Him, there will be nothing left for us to be troubled about."

Usually, we are most anxious when we give up control. However, this passage is telling us the key to killing anxiety is to give up control. What do you need to give up into God's hand?

b. Read Luke 12:31-34. According to this passage, a natural byproduct of a kingdom-seeking, anxiety-free life is a life of generosity. In what ways can you turn your anxieties into generosity today?