

Monday, February 27 – Don't Worry

BOTTOM LINE: Your priorities and your self-control determine how you spend your money.

So my counsel is: "Don't worry about things—food, drink, and clothes. For you already have life and a body—and they are far more important than what to eat and wear. Look at the birds! They don't worry about what to eat—they don't need to sow or reap or store up food—for your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are. Will all your worries add a single moment to your life?

"And why worry about your clothes? Look at the field lilies! They don't worry about theirs. Yet King Solomon in all his glory was not clothed as beautifully as they. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won't he more surely care for you, O men of little faith?

"So don't worry at all about having enough food and clothing. Why be like the heathen? For they take pride in all these things and are deeply concerned about them. But your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well that you need them, and he will give them to you if you give him first place in your life and live as he wants you to." Matthew 6:25-33

You have heard it said that Jesus talked about money and the things connected with it more than any other subject. Why? Because the people then were just like people today. We get worried about the things we want and need, and that concern eats up our focus and energy. Jesus was talking to His friends whom He spent time with daily. He saw their concerns about their families, housing, daily needs, the future. He knew that even providing food and the right kind of clothes to wear was a big issue. Maybe their teenagers wanted the latest Nike sandals, and they were overcome by the pressures of it all. He reminded them that God's care for the tiniest and seemingly least significant of creation was perfect—His friends could trust the Father to care for them.

He gave them a simple formula for handling their needs: 1) Don't worry. 2) Remember, God knows what you need. 3) Take care of what matters to Him as your first priority. 4) Trust that He will take care of what matters to you.

It worked then and it works now. Try it.

- Jesus said that when I worry about my needs, I am acting like a heathen. That's not what we typically consider "heathen" behavior. How does this reshape your thinking about worry?
- What is your biggest financial concern? What do you need?
- Remind yourself that the Father KNOWS you need it, and you can trust Him IF He is first in your priorities. Thank Him in faith.