

Finding Peace In Our Heavenly Father
Matthew 6:25-34

I. There is a connection between not worrying and understanding our identity as the children of God.

- A. Jesus refers to two basic needs, food and clothing.
 - 1. We need food to survive. Food is a security issue.
 - 2. With clothing, Jesus refers to how lilies and Solomon looked.
 - (a) It is related to how we feel about ourselves.
 - (b) Are we loved? Are we accepted?
 - (c) That is a significance issue.
- B. Jesus tells us to not worry about these basic needs.
 - 1. Birds don't produce their own food or store it up.
 - (a) Yet, every day they find what they need.
 - (b) "Your heavenly Father" feeds them.
 - (c) God has made provision for them.
 - 2. You are much more valuable than birds.
 - (a) To whom? To God. He is your heavenly Father.
 - (b) Your security is wrapped up in your relationship to him.
 - 3. Lilies don't toil or spin to make their clothing.
 - (a) Yet, their beauty surpasses that of King Solomon.
 - (b) They are only grass, here today and fuel to burn tomorrow.
 - (c) They are of little significance compared to you.
 - (d) But, if God gives them such beautiful garb, he will take care of you, too.
 - (e) Your significance is wrapped up in your relationship to him.,
- C. Jesus is saying that this is an identity issue.
 - 1. Identity is about who you are. You are a child of God!
 - 2. Remember, you are not just some random being existing on your own.
 - (a) You have been adopted by God into his family.
 - (b) Your Father is the sovereign God who reigns over all.
 - (c) He has promised to be with you and for you.
 - (d) He loves you and will take care of you.
 - (e) Don't worry. Look to him. Remember you are his.
 - (f) To remember who you are, you need to remember whose you are. You are God's child, significant and secure.

II. We need to replace worrying with trust in the character of God.

- A. God keeps his promises. He is trustworthy.
 - 1. The real question is about me. How am I doing at trusting?
- B. God is a covenantal God.
 - 1. In covenant, he promises to be faithful, loyal, and true.
 - (a) He says that he will never leave us nor forsake us.
 - (b) So, he promises to not abandon his children.
 - 2. God's promises are not based on what we deserve.

- (a) His promises are always based on his own character.
- (b) He has never lied. He never will. Count on it!
- (c) What he says is true. What he prophesies comes true.

C. God has demonstrated his love.

- 1. "For God so loved the world..."
 - (a) For God so loved you..."

D. Jesus said, "O you of little faith..." (little trust).

- 1. We struggle to trust that God will take care of us.
 - (a) This has been true since the garden of Eden.
- 2. God has always been faithful.
 - (a) We are the ones who struggle with unfaithfulness.
- 3. He has proven himself, over and over again.
 - (a) In both history and in our lives.
 - (b) We need to remember his faithfulness, and trust him.
- 4. He has you! (I Peter 5:7)
 - (a) Find your peace in him!
 - (b) Rest in his faithfulness, in his character!
- 5. Pagans run after these things.
 - (a) "Run after" implies concern, worry.
 - (b) Why? God is not their Father.
 - (c) They don't know him, so they don't trust him.
 - (d) They are depending upon themselves.
- 6. As God's people, we are dependent upon him, not us.
 - (a) That is good, because God is very dependable.
 - (b) As a good Father, he cares for his children.

III. "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness..."

- A. A King's kingdom is where he reigns.
 - 1. Those who have trusted in Jesus are in the Kingdom of God.
 - 2. We are to seek to extend God's Kingdom and his reign.
 - (a) This has always been our mandate.
 - (b) Now it is our mandate in the Great Commission.
 - (c) Make disciples, faithful followers of the King.
- B. We are to seek his expanding reign over our lives.
 - 1. "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth..."
 - (a) Thy will be done in our lives.
 - (b) We are to give our lives back to the King (Romans 12:1).
- C. Seeking his righteousness
 - 1. Not the self-righteousness of religion.
 - (a) Remember, we are righteous by grace, not by works.
 - 2. We respond to grace by living to please and honor Jesus.
 - (a) We seek to be like him.
- D. Make these things your priority and don't worry!
 - 1. Seek him first, and he will meet all your needs.
 - 2. In other words, he is what you need more than anything else!
 - (a) Make him your priority and he will take care of you!