

Find Something Else to Worry About

Matthew 6:24-34 (NRSV) "No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. ²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink,^[b] or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? ^[c] ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³² For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God ^[d] and his^[e] righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ **"So do not worry** about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Giving Honor to God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Today, our scripture lesson comes from Matthew, Chapter 6, verses 24-34, as we lift up the name of the Lord. Our topic is "**Find Something Else to Worry About.**"

Jalen and Janiyah Cullen (5-year-olds) were exercising on the playground when Jalen whispered to his sister, "You're Ugly." In the blink of an eye Janiyah said, "You're Ugly too." Well, you've got a big head, said Jalen. You too, said Janiyah. You don't read so well, said Jalen. I read better than you, said Janiyah. Then they both paused... thought for a moment, and Jalen said "I forgive you and I love you." You know I forgive you and I love you too brother, said Janiyah. You see they were not only brother and sister, but they were twins. Twins who understood the power of love and forgiveness.

In the late 80's musical artist Bobby McFerrin sang the song "Don't Worry be Happy." In 2013 musical artist Pharrell Williams produced the song 'Happy'. Both songs went on to be hits mainly because they encouraged people to embrace happiness verses worrying. The beautiful reality about the life of believers is that we have Christ, which allows us access to a joy (Happiness) that the Lord gives to us, and the world can't take it away.

The word Christ in Greek is pronounced "Christos" meaning the anointed one. In the Old Testament generally priests (especially high priests), were anointed with

oil as a visible symbol of the acceptance of their spiritual service. But in the New Testament "Christ" refers specifically to Jesus to denote His status as the only one whom God has anointed and appointed "high priest" and Saviour of mankind. Hallelujah, we need a savior because all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10) Now the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our lord. (Romans 6:23) Jesus Christ is God's payment for our debt of sin, and if we accept Him as our Lord and Savior then we are cleansed through the blood of Jesus, which is the lamb that was slain for us. (Tell somebody, "Thank God for Forgiveness of Sin). Thank God for His Grace and Mercy!!!

As I slept last night; and even as I woke up this morning, I like you realized that there are some circumstances, situations, issues, pains, struggles, mishaps, setbacks, shortcomings, problematics, obstacles in my way, some tears, brokenness, aches, injuries, embarrassments, unknowns, etc., etc. etc. that we all have to deal with in life, but there is a witness in my spirit this morning that we must all find something else to worry about. I found out that no matter what happens in life; God is still going to be God. He will still sit on the throne. Jesus will still be at His right hand, the Holy Spirit will continue to comfort us, and that the Lord will never leave us nor forsake us. Listen my friend... You may have gone through struggles because you have experienced what many would call a blended family. I want you to know that you can look at the home where God placed His son Jesus. This was a blended family. How do we know it... well, according to Matt. 13:55-56, Jesus had four brothers and several sisters. God was Jesus' Father; but Joseph was his earthly father. I need you to understand that the home where Jesus was placed was a home where God was honored.

- **God was honored**

How do we know this? See Luke 2:41 teaches us that "Every Year the Parents of Jesus went to the Feast of Passover." Going to the house of God and worshipping with others were expected family activities in Jesus' day. Please note that the verse says "EVERY YEAR". There was no question such as, "Well, do you think we ought to go to church this time?" I don't know, but the Capernaum Commanders are competing against the Palestine Cowboys for the NFL championship (that's the Nazarene Football Association). And I was thinking, maybe we ought to let the boy see the game this year. You know that all of his friends will be watching it. There was no "Honey, over at the Galilee Mall they're having a Super Sabbath Sale, (Everything is 30% Off and the Sandals are Buy 1 Get 1 half off), and I was wondering... Would you mind if I miss the service? Come on somebody! *Every time the Saints met; God was honored. And church wasn't something that started when the boy became old enough to understand and make a decision for himself. You know some of us have become confused. You don't give Junior a choice about*

going to school. Why would you give him a choice about going to church? The bible teaches us that Jesus' parents took Him to the temple to observe the religious custom of circumcision when He was a week old. They positioned Him in the precincts of the Holy from the time He could be carried outside of His house. His home was a place where God was honored. I believe they heard about the faithfulness of the Old Testament prophets. I believed that they heard the teaching of David's worship in Psalms. Then Jesus teaches us lessons in life: through the woman at the well, Blind Bartimaeus' recovery of sight, and the woman who blessed the Lord through the ministry of giving. Hallelujah, she gave all that she had. Tell somebody, "I'm going to find something else to worry about."

- **Jesus is a Healer**

Today, you might have pain in your body, but I came to remind you that Jesus is a healer. There was a man that was at the pool of Bethesda for 38 long years. My brothers and sisters, in Jerusalem there is a pool with five covered porches, which is called "Bethzatha" in the Hebrew language. Many sick people were lying on the porches beside the pool. Some were blind, some were crippled, and some were paralyzed. A man was lying there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw the man and knew that he had been sick for such a long time, Jesus asked him, "Do you want to be well?" The sick man answered, "Sir, there is no one to help me get into the pool when the water starts moving. While I am coming to the water, someone else always gets in before me. "Then Jesus said, "Stand up. Pick up your mat and walk." And immediately the man was well; he picked up his mat and began to walk. (John 5:1-9) Tell somebody, "I'm going to find something else to worry about."

- **Jesus can be the Lord of Your Life**

You may have automobile problems. You've taken it to the mechanic and found out that there's something wrong with the wheels. Tell somebody, "I'm going to find something else to worry about." Jesus is the wheel in the middle of the wheel. You may feel that you've been broken, abused, and that the storms of life are ragging. Tell somebody, "I'm going to find something else to worry about." Jesus can put you back together again and speak to the storms of life saying "Peace, Be Thou Still." At times in Life, You may feel all alone. Tell somebody, "I'm going to find something else to worry about." Jesus said, "I'll never leave you, nor forsake you. You've been concerned about the job and how you're going to pay your bills. Tell somebody, "I'm going to find something else to worry about." The Lord will Supply All of your Need, According to His Riches in Glory. You may have received a dismal doctor report. Tell somebody, "I'm going to find something else to worry about."

Don't you know that Jesus. J-E-S-U-S!!! Jesus is the Doctor in the Sick Room. Our God Giveth the Power to Make You Well. You may have found yourself on the wrong side of the law. Tell somebody, "I'm going to find something else to worry about." I've come to understand, Jesus, GOOD GOD ALMIGHT!!! Jesus is our lawyer in the courtroom. Every

now and then you may feel like you can't get out of the rat race. Tell somebody, "I'm going to find something else to worry about." This race. I said this race... isn't won by the swift or the quick, but unto he/she that endures until the end. Tell somebody, "I'm going to find something else to worry about." You may feel broke busted and disgusted. Tell somebody, "I'm going to find something else to worry about." I think it was Kirk Franklin who said "You'll feel So Much Better When You Smile."

In closing, "Find something else to worry about." Turn it over to Jesus and He will work it out. How to reach the masses, those of every birth, for an answer Jesus gave the key. And Jesus, if Jesus be lifted up from the earth he'll draw all humanity unto him. You may feel like you're going through a hot trial. Find something else to worry about, because trouble don't last always. You may have been crying. Find something else to worry about because weeping may endure for a night, but Joy (O' Thank You Jesus) Joy, Joy, Joy comes in the morning. You may feel that you're struggling in life. Find something else to worry about. You can declare, I've been young and now am old, but never have I seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed beggin' bread. You may feel disconnected and lost. Find something else to worry about. Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound, that Saved a Wretch like me, I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see. I want to encourage you today. Hold On. Don't You Give Up. Honor God, trust Jesus to heal your life and your body, and allow Jesus to be Lord of your life. For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16) Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Praise the Lord. "Find Something Else to Worry About – in Jesus Name." Amen.