

Winning Over Worry

Mt. 6:24-34

INTRODUCTION

- A. Illustration about rat, *Illustrations Unlimited*, p. 496, #3.
- B. No man can serve two masters, v. 24.
 - 1. If he attempts to serve two masters, his loyalty will be divided--he will hate one and love the other or vice versa.
 - 2. Man cannot serve God and mammon.
 - a. "Mammon" is an Aramaic word which means "wealth" or "property."
 - 1) A man cannot be loyal to God and love money at the same time.
 - 2) Many who desire to be rich fall into trouble (1 Tim. 6:9-10).
 - b. Illustration about the bat's indecision, *Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations*, #5814.
- C. Because man cannot serve two masters, he is not to worry about his life, v. 25.
 - 1. Man is not to worry about what he is to eat or drink or what he will wear.
 - 2. Life is more important than food and the body is more important than clothing.
 - 3. Worry means to be unduly concerned about something; the admonition against worry is so important that it is repeated three times.

THE FUTILITY OF WORRY, vv. 26-30

- A. Consider the birds, v. 26.
 - 1. They do not sow nor reap nor gather into barns, yet God feeds them.
 - 2. Are we not of more value than they?
 - a. Mankind is more important to God than the birds.
 - b. Therefore, if God will feed the birds, he will surely feed us.
- B. Who by worrying can add one cubit to his stature, v. 27.
 - 1. Some other translations render this phrase: "Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?"
 - 2. Whatever translation we accept, the point really remains the same--Worrying can do nothing beneficial.
- C. Why do we worry about clothing?, vv. 28-30.
 - 1. The lilies of the field neither toil nor spin.
 - a. In Palestine during the spring, the hillsides are clothed with lilies of various colors.
 - b. Although lilies do not work, they surpass Solomon in all his glory.
 - 1) Solomon had much glory.
 - 2) 1 Ki 10:14-29 describe Solomon's great wealth.
 - 2. If God richly clothes the grass which is temporary, will he not also clothe us?
 - 3. Jesus directs these words to those "of little faith."
 - a. Indeed, those who worry have little faith in God.
 - b. Those who trust God have no reason to worry; God will provide.
- D. This is not to say that we can do nothing and God will be pleased.
 - 1. Each person is to look after his responsibilities.
 - a. A man is to work so that he can eat (2 Thess. 3:10).
 - b. We are to work so that we can give to those who have needs (Eph. 4:28).
 - 2. We are not to sit around and wait for God to bless us; were to fulfill our responsibilities.
 - 3. Are you fulfilling your responsibilities?

THE ANSWER TO WORRY, vv. 31-33

- A. Because God will care for us, we are not to worry about what we shall eat, drink, or wear, v. 31.
- B. We are not to worry, for the Gentiles worry, v. 32.
 - 1. The “Gentiles” stands for those apart from Christ.
 - 2. Those who are not Christians do worry about the things of this world.
- C. Our heavenly Father knows that we need all these things, God knows what we need, and God will not abandon us.
- D. We are to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.
 - 1. “Seek” means to try to obtain or to desire to possess something.
 - a. The meaning here is that one attempts to make God’s kingdom real in his life.
 - b. Are you seeking the kingdom by making the kingdom real in your life?
 - 1) The kingdom of God is, of course, his church.
 - 2) To make that kingdom real in one’s life means to be an active participant in the church.
 - 2. We are also to seek God’s righteousness.
 - a. Righteousness refers to uprightness of life.
 - b. We are to seek God’s uprightness.
 - 1) As much as is possible we are to live like God.
 - a) “You shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Mt. 5:48).
 - i. This text does not mean we are to be perfect, for perfect here means mature.
 - ii. However, don’t miss the fact that we are to become like God.
 - b) We are to forgive one another as “God in Christ forgave” us (Eph. 4:32).
 - i. Just as the Father has forgiven us, we are to forgive.
 - ii. Again we are to be like the Father.
 - 2) Are you living like God?
 - 3. We are to seek God’s kingdom and his righteousness first in our lives.
 - a. God must be first in our lives.
 - 1) Jesus called loving God with our heart, soul, and mind “the first and great commandment” (Mt. 22:37-38).
 - 2) Jesus said, “Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple” (Lk. 14:33).
 - 3) Both the Father and the Son expect to be first in our lives.
 - b. Can you honestly say that you are seeking God’s kingdom and righteousness first in your life?
 - 4. If we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, “all these things shall be added to” us.
 - a. The “these things” refers to our needs; if we put God’s kingdom and righteousness, God will provide for our needs.
 - b. This is not a promise of great wealth, but this is a promise to be cared for.
 - c. God will provide the Christian’s needs.
 - 1) “I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread” (Ps. 37:25).
 - 2) “A faithful man will abound with blessing” (Pr. 28:20).
 - 5. Are you seeking first God’s kingdom? Is God blessing you?

CONCLUSION

- A. We need not worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about its own things, v. 34.
 - 1. Each day is sufficient for its own trouble.
 - 2. Each day brings new difficulties to be faced in that day.
- B. Are you worrying?