

SERMON OUTLINE

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

'Behold your King' - 9

Matthew 6 v19 - 33

Key Verses - "Do not worry...." (v25) "Do not worry...." (v28) "Do not worry...." (v34)

Key Question - How would you react if someone came to see you (even perhaps the minister) at a time when you were facing a very real tragedy, and he / she said to you - 'Why are you worrying? Don't worry - everything's going to work out fine'? Perhaps in 1 of 2 ways....

A. BY FEELING UNDERSTANDABLY ANGRY

Angry because of their insensitivity and irresponsibility.

B. BY FEELING UNNECESSARILY GUILTY

After all, Jesus does here - "Do not worry....."

Title - 'Overcoming Worry'

1. THE NATURE OF THIS WORRY

Note - When it comes to worrying there are, for the Christian believer, worries which are legitimate (and understandable) and worries which are illegitimate. When Jesus says - "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you are to eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear....." we need to understand that Jesus is drawing a distinction between the necessities of life and the luxuries of life. When He goes on ask - "Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes" we need to understand that for so many people this is exactly what life is all about. Jesus here is telling us not to worry about the necessities of life.

2. THE CAUSE OF THIS WORRY

Note - The word "therefore" in verse 25 takes us back to verses 19 to 24.

Key Question (v24) - Who are we serving? Note (v19 - 23) - What we

have a heart for (what we long for more than anything else) will inevitably lead to what we have an eye for - and what we continually have an eye for will soon become our master, shaping and moulding the way in which we live!

3. THE REMEDY FOR THIS WORRY

The remedy comes from being clear in our hearts and minds about a number of issues to do with life - not least, living in the knowledge that the God we serve is our heavenly Father.

A. JESUS SPEAKS ABOUT THE MEANING OF LIFE

Key Question - What is it that brings meaning to life - peace, poise, and contentment? It's in knowing that the God who is our Father not only knows our every need (v28 - 32), but is able to meet our every need (v26). Note - Jesus here uses an 'a fortiori argument' - 'if this is the case, then this must be the case'. Key Question - How valuable are we? See - Rom 8 v32.

B. JESUS SPEAKS ABOUT THE LENGTH OF LIFE

See - v27. Key Point - The length of our days is not a matter of fate. Our lives are in the good, wise and ever loving hands of the heavenly Father.

C. JESUS SPEAKS ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

See - v33. It's a matter of priorities - getting first things first. Note - Jesus doesn't say that we will never have to face troubles in life. Oh no! See - v34. What He does say is that when tomorrow comes with its troubles there will be sufficient grace for us - that sufficiency of grace which sees us through today.