

Date: 12.10.2004

Passage: Matthew 6:25 – 34 (Jesus teaches about worry)

What are the four things Jesus said we should not worry in v25?

- 1) Life
- 2) Food
- 3) Body
- 4) Clothes

Of the four things, which ones take priorities and which ones are considered basic needs in our lives?

Life and body takes priority over food and clothes that are considered basic needs in our lives. If we are not to worry about our most basic needs, then we should not worry about other non-essential things in life.

Why do we like to worry? What does worrying accomplish?

We worry when we try to get things under control, e.g. when you love someone, you want to protect them, so you try to control their environment and worry about all the what-ifs. In another instance, when we become discontent with what God has provided, and compare ourselves with others, we start to worry about how we appear in other peoples' eyes and their opinions of us.

We worry because we think too much. Children don't worry because they trust that their parents will provide and take care of them. In the same way, we should trust our heavenly Father to take care of us, His children. God gives us the ability to think, don't abuse His gift, instead just trust and obey. Worry also stems from our doubts. There's nothing positive from worry, it'll only drain your life.

Does it mean that since we should not worry? That we don't need to put our effort in things? That we should not be responsible?

No, not worrying means to trust that God will provide and take care of us, and obeying His will. But, He still expects us to work, to put in effort, to be responsible. An example would be Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Though, God provided everything for them, He still expected them to take care of the animals.

Is there a difference between worrying and planning?

Yes, worrying is approaching life with fear and trying to control everything, whereas, planning is being responsible for the tasks and things before you.

Why do we want to seek God's kingdom and His righteousness?

God's kingdom is eternal, whereas the earthly things are temporal and will pass away.

If food and clothing are the basic needs, does it mean that we should not have wants and desires?

No, it is natural to have wants and desires. However, one must be aware of the source(s) for those wants and desires, i.e. for selfish gains or aligned with God's desires. Psalm 103:5 promised us that God satisfies our desires with good things.

Other scriptural references

James 4:13 – 17

¹³Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil.

¹⁷Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

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1 Peter 4:12 – 13

¹²Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

Jeremiah 29:11 – 14a

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD , "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you," declares the LORD...