

Pastor Jordan Gades Sermon 8.18.18 Matthew 6:19-34

Good Evening!

So tonight we get a good news bad news scenario out of our somewhat stacked reading out of Matthew. I think I'll start with the good news though as we go through the reading we are going to come back to some more good news as well.

“Do not worry about your life” Great news right. From Jesus’ lips. Our command and our hope. Do not worry about your life. Put God first and you will be overfilled with life everlasting. That's a really great teaching to try and put into practice for us all. Though it’s definitely not an easy teaching for us to put into action in our daily lives.

Matthew is all about teaching. Over and over again throughout his gospel, his sharing of the Good News of Jesus Christ he again and again

emphasizes Jesus's teachings. Matthew was so good at this that the Gospel was used as the go to gospel for centuries. He's usually clear in what he's writing down and it's usually all very acceptable to accept. Today we are in the middle of Jesus's most famous teaching sermon, the Sermon on the Mount. And here we hear Jesus's words on a 4 different topics. And as you read through the Sermon on the Mount Jesus is just hitting topic after topic. He is getting as much information out there as possible as fast as possible. So it's probably understandable if when you heard the reading you got a little confused or wondered how one line had to with the next. And there is one other thing you should probably understand about Matthew that will help you to understand this text a little bit more. Matthew understands money all too well. He used to be a tax collector. He used to let his life be run by selfishness and greed. He used to live every day hated by his friends and family and every other Jew that he ran into. He was used to being a symbol of a hated ruling body and being under the control of a horrible authoritarian cruel empire.

There is a huge reason that these words of Jesus were remembered and written down and shared by Matthew. These were the words of freedom and life to Matthew. And we are talking about real freedom and true life. And these words of good news do the same for us today. We hear the words again Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life and we cannot be affected by them. We want to scoff at them. We want to dismiss them. We want to say they are unrealistic. It's a nice fairytale isn't it?

But what we really want is control. We want that sense of assurance that we have a plan. That if anything that happens we can overcome it. What we want is not to fear what tomorrow will bring.

We cannot run from this sense within us that pushes us to want more. To hoard, to envy, to lust, to fear. We know it's there and we think we can fight it off. We think we can plan and strategize a way to make it go away. Well as much as we like to think that "Do not worry about life" is a child's tale, thinking that we are in control of today and

tomorrow is a 10 times bigger one. Tomorrow will come and unfold as it will. And to that God says Do Not Worry.

There is a quote that says that “Worrying doesn't empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength.” We are blessed with today. We are given the gift of today to live in the kingdom of God. And when you know you live in the kingdom of God you do not worry. The kingdom of God is here. It is not just in the future, it is not just after our death, it is right here right now. We are living in and are a part of God's Kingdom.

We are a part of this amazing kingdom. We are not just receiving its bounty and blessings; we are part of this creative and abundant source of life that spreads and expands with a wild jubilant force of the creator behind it. We are here to spread this blessing of life. And that means work. Everyday work. That means living within the days we are given and helping build up this kingdom. There are so many forces that keep knocking down what we build up but we prevail. Our God, our

Creator and Savior has prevailed and will prevail. Look to that guiding light in times of darkness. Look to your loving guide and master.

I'm going to end with a little practical stuff. While God uses the birds and the lilies as examples for do not worry. We know those birds are flying back and forth near and far constantly looking for food. While the food is there, they have to work to get it. While the lilies are sitting there being all beautiful, they are striving to grow deep roots that anchor the plant and absorb nutrients and water while growing tall stems and leaves to win out enough sunlight from the weeds that surround them. God sends the water and gives them light but there is nothing easy about what they are doing.

So do not worry but you had better be willing to work. And work today. And tomorrow. And the day after that. God was kind enough to make sure we took one day off a week at least. Live today with the strength that God has given you and Do Not Worry. Now it's time Serve God and bless others. Amen