

## DO NOT WORRY, SEEK GOD.

Matthew 6:19-34.

*“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? (25).*

It is a new year 2022! Let's praise the Almighty God who gave us this opportunity to enter into the year 2022! We praise God once more who encouraged us last week with the words of His servant Shp Desmond to boldly say *'The God we serve is able to deliver us, and willing to walk with us and rescue us from whatever fire we might be in, this 2022'*. In today's passage, God encourages us to not worry, but rather to seek Him. I believe most of us have plans, and have set goals on what to achieve this year. Most are worried about work – how they can get a salary increase, be promoted or get a stable job. Most are also worried about school – how they can get better grades, where to get the strength to repeat some modules which they failed, how they can get funding. Many other are worried about their future and security. Many are worried about their bodies – wanting to lose or gain weight, their health especially against this deadly COVID 19. Most are trying to forget about the failures of the past [year] and start a new. However, it is not that easy; we are still faced with the same challenges, if not even more. Yes, we are all worried about our lives; what we'll eat and drink and wear. However, our Lord and Savior Jesus declares that none of us, by worrying, can add a single hour to our lives. So then, as it is this pointless to worry, why then do we worry? In today's passage, we'll learn that we worry when we are not focused on God. Moreover, this is how we can overcome worrying; when we seek, focus and trust God. May God bless His word and open our hearts to repent from our sin of worrying and be blessed when we have faith in Him, and our lives are centered on Him – i.e. His Kingdom and righteousness.

### WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

How do you understand 'worrying', can someone define 'worry'? It is defined as (verb) *to feel or cause to feel anxious or troubled about actual or potential problems*. (Noun) *The state of being anxious and troubled over actual or potential problems*. To add more meat to it, Jesus defines worrying as being directly linked to security our treasures. Our treasures are what matters the most to us, something that we value the most, and we try by all means to labour and toil for it until we have it for good, not lost. In this passage, our treasure can be easily defined as 'money'.

Jesus says *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (21)*. Why do we worry? We worry because of where we have placed our treasures. Let us sincerely ask ourselves this question – where is your treasure, and sincerely answer it. Let us see the different places where our treasures are. Look at verse 19 and 20. *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal (19, 20)*. Our treasures are either on earth or in heaven. Treasures on earth are not secured at all. However, the world keeps preaching to us the lie that they are. 'Security' is what the world promises. It is a lie because here on earth are moths and vermin that destroy. There are plenty of thieves whose sole job is to break in and steal your treasure. At one point you are so excited about getting a new job. You feel like you own the universe, but so much quickly you have issues with your employer or simply lose the job. You buy a considered quality BMW car to ease your traveling pleasure, but at once you are hijacked. You have been an A+ student and passing well throughout your studies, then bang! You are now really struggling and even failing. The greatest thief, and the most destructive of all moths and vermin is death. No one can escape death. When death hits you, all you accumulated here on earth is lost. You cannot take with you what you treasured to the grave. If earth is where you store your treasures, then know

this for sure; you will worry ALL the time because nothing valuable is secured on earth. However, if your treasure is in heaven, all is well. In heaven there are no moths nor vermin that destroy. In heaven there are no thieves, that would break in and steal your treasure. There are many products that are sold to us, and many things we do here on earth to make our treasures secure. But such efforts are futile. They are, but, mere useless efforts to secure our treasures that are merely floating on earth and exposed to stealing and destruction. However, if your treasure is in heaven, you are 100% sure that you are secured.

Perhaps, this is a great opportunity for us to know what our real treasure is. If your treasure is on earth, that simply means your treasure in money. However, if your treasure is in heaven, JESUS, is your real treasure. Not only can He save us from sin, but also from death. This treasure is fully secured and sealed by the blood He shed for us on the cross. When we have Jesus as our treasure, we do not worry nor are shaken by the world and all its cares, but rather we remain hopeful of the coming Kingdom of God and to be with Him eternally. Yes, we do not worry, but rather we overcome worry in this world because we have found a better, and by far, the real treasure.

The issue of where our treasures are is further explained in verses 22, 23. Let us read. *The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!* Here the function of the eye is to bring light into the body just like what the lamp does to the room; bringing in light. The eye is a window or an opening that provides light to our bodies. What is sad to notice is that our bodies are already filled with so much darkness. Without light, our bodies are filled with the darkness of worry, void, need, persistent anxiety and sin. Such is the sad state of the person whose treasure is on earth. However, when we are focused and exposed to God, we are fed with the Light of God that enters our bodies to disperse all darkness in our bodies. When we are fixated on God, and trust Him, He is able to drive our fear, anxiety and all sin that trouble our minds and bodies. We truly live peaceful lives. Amen!

Moreover, the issue of where your treasure will reveals to us who our real master is. There are only two masters; money and God. Can you serve both two masters? Look at verse 24. *No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.* It is impossible to serve both masters. We live in a world that teaches us that we can serve both masters. In fact, we are taught that we need both God and money. But that is not true. No one can serve two masters. If we are serving money, we should know this for sure that we will hate God, and we will not be devoted to Him. Rather, we'll give in the requirements and the demands of money. However, if we have God as our Lord and Master, it is impossible to give into the demands money. The reason why we cannot serve both these masters is that all of them have different objectives of which they want their subjects to carry out. Money demands of us to make more money regardless of how we make it. Money is never satisfied. It always wants more. Money the best agent of darkness because it doesn't care how money is made. Money is also an agent of darkness it is not stable, but defined by other events. How wretched are we if we serve money! However, having God as our Master is liberation and peace indeed. God also demands our lives to fully reflect His holy nature. God is above everything and everyone – The Creator God. His requirement is nothing but for us to promote and live lives reflecting His Kingdom and righteousness. So, we must then decide who to serve. If we serve money, then we are NOT serving God. Rather, our lives are short-sighted only focused on this world, with persistent worrying. Jesus however teaches us today, and in this new year, to seek and serve God. When we serve money, our lives will reflect our master money. However, when we seek and serve God sincerely, our lives will be reflective of the nature of God. I pray that we repent, cast all our cares to God and devote our lives to Him this year. Amen!

#### SEEK HIS KINGDOM & RIGHTEOUSNESS

This brings us to our key verse today. Let us read together verse 25. *Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and*

*the body more than clothes?* I am sure that many of us are quite troubled this statement. I mean, our lives are centered and defined by what we will eat or drink and what we will wear. Our lives are all about food and security. Why is Jesus telling us NOT to worry?

Firstly, we should not worry because life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. May God forgive us when we repent from this sin. We have defined our lives as all about food. We go into bed everyday and think about food. We even, in our dreams, see ourselves living for food. We are constantly looking for ways on how to live comfortable and carefree lives. We wake up every morning to study so that we can get that good job and never be lacking in food. We work very hard so that we can have bread on our tables. We worry about providing for our families. However, life is more than what we eat or drink! The word of God says, in Matthew 4:4 *'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'* *To live is Christ, and to die is gain [Philippians 1:21].* Our lives are all about glorifying God in our living. Are you rich? Glorify God with your riches. Use your money and great possessions to promote and advance the Kingdom of God. Are you poor? Glorify God with your lack. Use whatever little you have to serve God and preach His Kingdom. This is what living is all about. Let us not be deceived and shortsighted – there is another life to come. We are all temporal residents of this world. I pray that we can burn with passion for God and His Kingdom this year 2022, and serve Him. Amen! Therefore, let us not worry. Life is way more than such worries. Living is all about God!

Secondly we should not worry because our Heavenly Father knows what we need, and He always provides. Have you ever observed how the birds of the air are fed? Have you ever gave it a good thinking on why the flowers of the field are so beautiful? Look at verse 26. *Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?* The birds of the air do not go out to the farms to sow, not do they reap nor store away in barns like we do. Yet, they are always fed! Do you ever ask yourselves how they do it? How can they eat even though they haven't sown? How do they always have enough and plenty of food to eat even though they never stored up? It is because they are taken care of by the Heavenly Father God who created them. Are you saying that the birds of the air are more valuable to God than us? By no means! We are precious and so valuable to God. We are made in the image of God. We are so valuable to Him that He sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins. So then, shall we worry? By no means! No! we should not worry because whether we toil or not, our Heavenly Father God provides for us abundantly. Look at verse 28 to 30. *28 And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?* We have heard about the splendor of King Solomon. He is considered as the richest of all the people on earth. However, he could never reach the beauty and the splendor of the flowers of the field. These flowers neither labor nor spin, however they are this marvelous in appearance. God clothes them. Yet, tomorrow they are thrown into the fire. Do you really think you are that valueless? By no means no! we are much more valuable. And God, who clothes the flowers of the field, has been clothing and protecting us, and He will surely keep doing that because we are so much precious and valuable to Him. Therefore, we need not to worry, because we have God on our side, who has given us so much proof that He indeed loves us, and mighty to take care and meet all our needs.

The problem is that we have so much little faith. We are not pagans who do not believe in God the Almighty, but rather we are all precious sons and daughters of God, dearly loved and cared for by our Father God. *31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' None-believers are forever restless in their heart. They run after all these things. But not us. There is no need to worry, no need to labor nor toil. There is even no need to store up treasures here on earth. Why? Because we are sons and daughters of God who knows and provide to us exactly what we need, if not even more abundantly so! Pagans not only worry about today, but also even tomorrow. But this is not us. We leave to*

God all the uncertainties of tomorrow. We do not worry, but live each day as we see it by the grace of God. I pray, therefore, that we are encouraged by the word of God to, all the more, trust and have faith in God. Amen!

So then, what shall we do? Look at verse 33. *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* This is the life we should then all live. First things first, then the rest after. Our lives should be those of forever seeking first God's Kingdom and His righteousness. If we do not seek God in this way, we will easily be devoted to another master who will shower us with all the worries of life until we die. What a waste! Rather, let us use our lives precious by being concerned about the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. The Kingdom of God and His righteousness is all about promoting and living the nature of God. The Kingdom of God does not preach greediness nor being unaffected by people. It preaches us to take care of people, to give to the needy, to preach the word of God and bring Jesus to their heart; who is always ready to save from sin and free them from all worry. This is what we should all do. Are you seeking first the Kingdom and righteousness of God? And this is the sure promise of God to meet all our needs when we seek Him first. I pray that we all repent this new year, and seek God sincerely. Amen!

I look back to reflect on my life. I do not want to lie, last year has been personally the greatest challenging year of my life. Being jobless, and losing my possessions especially my car worried me a lot to an extent that I cannot have a positive outlook on life anymore. However, this passage encouraged me so much that I repent from my sin of unbelief. Yes, it was tough, but amazingly, I was fed and clothes by God. I never slept in hunger, nor was naked without clothes nor protection. Rather, if you wouldn't tell that I am troubled. I was well nourished and dressed in fine clothes by my Heavenly Father. Instead of being killed, my body was taken care of by God. I was rather saved from the hands of the thieves and the enemy Satan. He also gave me a job at Traxys through which I could be well taken care of. This message has given me hope to look at the new year 2022 with great anticipation and positivity. I am praying to be married to a suitable helper with whom we can, not only seek the Kingdom of God, but also preach His righteousness through the campus ministry. I also pray that I personally give myself to the kingdom of God and take care of God's sheep in our fellowship. Please also do pray for me to get a permanent job (in Traxys), and get a good progress in my studies.

In conclusion, when we seek and focus on God, we are truly saved from the paralyzing effects of worry. Therefore, let us all be encouraged this new year 2022, to first seek His Kingdom and to serve Him. Amen!