**Calvary Fellowship 6.12.2022 Matthew 6:25-34 “Without a Care in the World”**

* **A few years ago, I was going to a conference w/ a few of the staff pastors**
* 1 of our pastors got dropped off at the airport & I was driving the rest of the guys & leaving my car at the airport - So we drove to the airport together
* The day we bought the tickets I told my assistant that FTL airport is better than MIA b/c it’s not as busy - if you’ve flown out of MIA, then U know it’s a zoo
* He agreed - in fact, we all agreed that FTL was a better airport
* Well, the morning of the flight, my assistant sends me the boarding pass w/ all of the flight info & I pick everyone up & head to the airport
* We’re running a little late b/c it’s raining hard & everyone is driving slow - my assistant texts us & says, “Hey, you’re cutting it a little close.”
* I say, “There’s nothing I can do. It’s raining like crazy out here.” - He says, “Really? The sky is clear at the airport.” - then he sends me a pic of a clear sky
* At this point, we’re at 595 & I-95 getting close to the airport & I say to George, “Ask him what airport he’s at.” - He responds, “Miami.”
* I cut off 3 lanes of traffic to get on I-95 b/c I’m 30 minutes from the airport & my flight leaves in less than an hour
* Once I get on I-95, I proceed to the next order of business which is to yell at my assistant for sending me to the wrong airport - which he denies
* He says, “I sent all of U the flight information & it said MIA.” - I looked at he did
* I said, “Yes, but that day we all agreed that FTL was better.”
* He said, “Yes. I agree that it is better. But that doesn’t change the fact that we bought the tickets from MIA & I send U that info.” - “Don’t sass your pastor!”
* But there’s still the little problem of getting to the airport - so I get into the speed lane on 95 & drive as motivated as possible
* Then George tells me that the speed lane doesn’t let U off until after the airport exit & I said, “George, God will make a way where this is no way.”
* “And if He doesn’t, those plastic strips don’t stand a chance.”
* So George braces himself by holding on to the dashboard & well… if U drive down 95 you’ll see an opening right before the airport exit - you’re welcome
* **That’s what our lives look like too often - worrying about things that never end up happening - for some it’s a huge challenge - for others, it’s easy**
* If you’re married, 1 of U is a worrier & the other is phased by nothing - they’ve never been worried about anything - In fact, the 1 of U that’s a worrier…
* U actually worry over the fact that your spouse doesn’t worry about anything
* **But here’s the other thing that’s at the heart of what Jesus is going to talk in our time together - that what we worry about reveal our core devotions**
* Here’s what I mean - my kids aren’t worried about the bills in my house getting paid - isn’t that weird? They’re so not worried, they don’t even think about it
* I’m going to go out on a limb & say that’s probably true at your house too
* Your kids leave the doors open & air condition the outside w/o a care in the world about how much the FPL bill is going to be - Why is that?
* B/c they aren’t focused or devoted to your FPL bill - that’s why they don’t listen
* It’s the same reason why as parents we might have concern for other people’s kids, but we worry about our own - b/c worry reveals our core devotions
* So how do we stop worrying about anything? Jesus is going to show us
* “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27)
* This peace that Jesus gives can come at times in a supernatural way & other times can come very naturally through a change of focus & devotion
* This 2nd one is at the heart of what Jesus talks about in this famous sermon that He gave - the Sermon on the Mount…

**———(v. 25-27)———**

**#1 - I Need to be Honest about Why I Worry**

* **The Gr. word that Jesus uses that’s translated as worry is more than just emotional angst - it refers to being pulled in different directions**
* Jesus reveals the true nature of why we worry in these verses…
* **#1 - Our Security** - The issue isn’t food per se - Jesus is revealing when we worry about food, we’re worrying about not having enough to meet our needs
* So what’s the key? Jesus is going to tell us that it’s changing our core devotions from depending on wealth to depending on God
* **That’s why this section starts our w/ the word “therefore” - whenever U see a “therefore” in the Bible it’s connecting 2 thoughts**
* In this case, it is connecting verse 24 to the current conversation
* “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” (Matthew 6:24)
* Why is this decision of who we serve so important? B/c it’s going to either fuel our worry & anxiety or release it
* **Jesus knows that our natural tendency is to worry about having enough**
* And when it comes to $$ matters, our natural reaction is to hold onto it & try to find security in our money - which it never brings b/c money can’t bring security
* Here’s what I’ve learned - when U don’t have any money, U long for more money & worry about getting more, thinking that will bring U security
* And when U have money, U still worry b/c you’re scared someone is going to take it from U - this is the problem in trusting in money
* **#2 - Our Legacy - So I try to exercise every day - I know that comes as a shock to most of U b/c I look like I never get out of bed**
* But I’ve found something I like to do - I like walking - so I walk 3 miles a day w/ a 30 pound weight in a backpack - it’s totally miserable, but I love it
* But every morning I tell myself that I’m not going to walk & then I start walking & I finally get into it & I’m glad I did it
* Initially, I started running & it was horrible, so I stopped
* People would tell me, “Wait til U get the ‘runners high’.”
* I’ve never gotten a runner’s high - I’ve gotten runner’s cramps a bunch of times
* But then I read this passage in Proverbs 28 that says, “The wicked run when no 1 is following them” - then I realized that running is unbiblical
* Here’s what I used to think about every time I ran - I am not adding 1 minute to my life by doing this - That’s not true Pastor. Healthy people live longer”
* **Listen - God knows exactly how long I’m going to live & it doesn’t matter how many squats I do, I’m not going to last beyond my expiration date**
* I’m not going to show up in heaven 1 day & tell God, “I’m not supposed to be here yet b/c I did crunches!” - They were Nestle’s Crunches, but it should count
* “Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?” (Matthew 6:27NLT)
* **So what’s the point of working out & eating healthy? B/c we are called to honor our bodies & treat it like a temple**
* I sometimes treat mine like a temple that’s undergoing constant expansion
* But while the number of days we live is up to God, He has given us a say in the the quality of life that we live - I truly believe that’s the point of exercise & eating right - but worrying doesn’t give us more life - instead, it robs us of life
* In fact, there are plenty of people who have worried themselves to death
* **A study by the University of Cincinnati was done & they discovered that 40% of what most people worry about never happens**
* 30% of worry is stuff that’s already happened & cannot be changed
* 22% of our worries regard problems which are beyond our control
* 8% of what we worry about are situations over which we have any influence
* **Too often we think about things that aren’t helpful - U ever get a pain & U start researching it online? That’s the worst idea ever - why?**
* B/c U aren’t a doctor & you’re trying to put together facts based on what some people who had a spot on their skin
* Have U ever read the comments from the people who post on these medical forums? It’s frightening that people are taking this advice
* **I had a friend who was convinced he had skin cancer b/c he had a spot on his skin - the medical forums confirmed his suspicions**
* So he went to the doctor just to make sure he was right - The doctor took a look at it & told him to put lotion on it b/c it was just a dry spot on his skin
* This guy had a new lease on life - he went from knocking on death’s door to just needing to moisturize a little more often

**———(v. 28-30)———**

**#2 - I Need to Change My Focus to Eliminate Worry**

* **Couple of years ago we took the kids to Disney world & we were at the Magic Kingdom ready to ride “It’s a Small World”**
* I was parking the stroller - Carey & the kids were already in line
* So I’m walking in line & I hear a guy w/ his wife & kids
* There’s another woman there that I think is his mother-in-law & she says to him, “Well, I just figured U knew what I was doing.”
* Apparently, that’s the 1 thing U don’t say to that guy b/c he just let loose
* He starts yelling, “We don't know you're doing. We can’t know your plans if U don't tell us. Your lack of communication is stressing all of us out.”
* He turned around and was wearing a "Hakuna matata" shirt
* Apparently, he didn’t realize his shirt meant ‘no worries for the rest of your days’
* **So last week we went to Orlando for a couple of days b/c it was a wife’s birthday & we were having ice cream at Disney Springs**
* We were just sitting & talking when this guy walks by us yelling and cussing
* I turn around & he’s wearing a hakuna matata shirt
* I’m starting to think they only give these shirts out to people with anger problems - “Hi, I’d like to buy this shirt?” - “Are you at least partially homicidal?”
* “Oh, I’m fully ready to snap.” - “Here’s your shirt. Enjoy the irony.”
* **Listen - worrying is a skill - it’s when U keep mulling things over in your mind from every angle & perspective until you’ve made yourself sick**
* Have U ever been so worried U couldn’t eat? I don’t have that problem - I wish that was my go to activity when I’m stressed out
* **Anyone ever been so stressed that U eat food that was terrible for U**
* U never get stressed & reach for the cauliflower & kale & then exercise
* U know b/c that would actually help - instead, we eat an entire pizza & French fries & watch it down w/ a milkshake
* “A sound mind makes for a robust body, but runaway emotions corrode the bones.” (Proverbs 14:30 The Message)
* Emotional decisions are usually the ones we end up regretting
* But instead of mulling it over through worry, we can meditate on Scripture, which is the exact same activity as worry - except our perspective is different
* “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” (Philippians 4:8)
* **So why is Jesus talking about clothes here? B/c clothes speak of our status & standing in life - b/c we worry about how others see us**
* I mean, why do we want to wear certain brands of clothes? B/c it’s so much nicer & it’s a much higher quality - That’s not really the case
* **I was at a Lacoste store the other day & I wanted a new polo shirt - So I picked one up & when I saw that 1 shirt was $89, I was in shock**
* So the clerk walks up to Xander & I & says, “Can I help U?” - I say, “Yes, I ‘d like a polo that doesn’t cost $89.” - She says, “Oh yeah. I have 1 for $79.”
* And it was the ugliest purple striped thing I’d ever seen - I said, “Is that a joke?”
* So I said, “Look, I have a Banana Republic polo that I bought 50% off for $20 a few months ago. Can U explain to me why yours is $70 better?”
* She said, “Well, it has the Lacoste logo.” - I said, “That little alligator. Mine has an elephant & I think in a fight you’d want to be on Dumbo’s side.”
* So anyway, after they asked me to leave the store I realized that the words of Jesus were true - we’re not paying for a polo shirt - they’re $15 on amazon
* **We’re paying $90 bucks for a 10 cent piece of string in the form of a logo that makes us feel like we’ve achieved a certain status in life**
* B/c the only thing a shirt w/ can alligator can do that another can’t do is tell the world that we’ve reached a certain level of success in life & deserve respect
* The point isn’t that LaCoste shirts are evil & manufactured by the Devil
* It’s that worrying about status & what others think of us creates anxiety in us
* This is very anxiety God wants to free us of when we trust Him…

**———(v. 31-34)———**

**#3 - I Need to Find Freedom Through Trust**

* **Jesus is now going to get to the point of everything that’s been building up to this point - He’s asking believers to act like believers**
* He says, “Don’t worry about the same things that people who don’t know God worry about. B/c they don’t think they have a heavenly Father who loves them.”
* “So they think they have to slug it out & grind it out for themselves b/c there’s no 1 else in the universe seeking to help them but they themselves.”
* **U & I are different - we have a heavenly Father who is seeking to glorify Himself in our lives & provide for us in the process**
* This passage gets twisted by people in an effort to be lazy but sound spiritual
* The point of Jesus’ message isn’t that our goal should be to not care about the future or our kids’ college, or how to pay the bills or not make plans
* Jesus isn’t saying “Don’t care” - He’s saying, “U don’t have to act like you’re alone in this. Your Heavenly Father is w/ U & He’s for U.”
* “The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.” (Proverbs 21:5)
* This isn’t either or - either U plan or U worry - no - instead, we should be diligent to plan for the future, but we don’t have to worry like we’re on our own
* That’s why Jesus says, “Your heavenly Father knows U need all these things.”
* He knows U need to pay the bills, that U need to plan for retirement, that U need to have a college plan for the kids - He knows that
* That word know is the Greek word “Oida” which means to recognize or understand - so it’s not that God simply knows intellectually that this is a reality
* It’s that He understands that the future matters - that our kids matter - that the bills really do need to get paid
* But Jesus is telling us that if we make these things the focus of our lives, thinking that we’re all alone to try & make it happen, we will worry ourselves into the grave - and that’s not the life any of us want
* **So Jesus offers us a different way to deal w/ what creates worry & anxiety in our lives - And it is completely counter intuitive**
* Jesus says that the solution to worry is to redirect our focus
* He says, “Put God’s Kingdom 1st & all the things U worry about will be added to U” - Don’t read this too quickly - listen to what He says
* He says, “Seek 1st” - in contrast to all of the things we’ve talked about that we typically seek after 1st - He says there’s something else to seek 1st
* **He says, “Seek 1st the Kingdom of God” - many of us have heard that verse before, but how is it practically done? Let’s talk about it**

**#1 - It Means I Need to Put God First Financially**

* The context of this section is what Jesus spoke about before, which is our attitude towards money - so how do we put God 1st financially?
* It’s giving first & choosing to serve God over mammon or money
* The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your life.” (Deut. 14:23)
* Every time U & I give it’s a statement of our faith - that we’re putting God 1st & trusting God over anything else of anyone else
* But for those of us who are believers & we don’t give, the reason we don’t do it is b/c of fear-we don’t think there will be enough & we don’t trust God to provide
* And when we think there won’t be enough, we put other things 1st & that’s almost a guarantee that there won’t be enough b/c you’re shutting God out of your financial world & that’s an area we never want to shut Him out of
* But when U decide that U believe your heavenly Father knows & understands & recognizes what U need, there’s freedom, joy, & peace
* **#2 - It Means I Need to Put God First Mentally**
* **Twice in this section, Jesus commands us to look at the birds & consider the lilies of the field - that doesn’t means to give them a glance**
* The word means to learn thoroughly - have U ever gotten in your car & driven home & U had no idea how U got there? U just drive home by memory
* We moved into a new house about a year ago but 2 months after we moved I was driving w/ my son & we were driving home & I pulled up to our home & there 2 Teslas in the driveway - I said, “What are 2 Teslas doing in our driveway?” - Xander said, “Dad, the people who bought our house own 2 Teslas. U drove to our old house.” - It was major senior moment
* But here’s the point - there’s a muscle memory when U know something so well
* This is what Jesus is talking about - studying something & really knowing it
* He’s saying, “If you’ll really study the birds of the air & the lilies of the field, you’ll see that your Father is on the case & not leaving anyone hanging”
* Your heavenly Father feeds the birds, but they have to leave the nest & look for food - but God is faithful to meet them
* This is the balance of planning & trusting - knowing that God will meet my needs when I’m faithful to do my part
* And when I’m faithful, God will open doors & make it rain & put people in my life that I could never do on my own - but that doesn’t happen until I’m faithful
* **#3 - It Means I Need to Put God First Relationally**
* **How do I put God’s kingdom 1st in my marriage? Let me ask U this question a different way: What are U worried about in your marriage?**
* I’m worried that we aren’t on the page - here’s the challenge: we’re both writing your own page - both of U get on God’s page & that problem goes away
* I know that sounds like spiritual jargon, but it’s not
* When U both decide “thy kingdom come, thy will be done” life gets a lot easier
* Do U know why? B/c U both decide to start serving each other & now you’ve made your marriage a place where U serve rather than a place where U are seeking to be served
* When 2 people make their marriage a race to the back of the line & they are actively seeking to serve & bless the other person, that’s going to be a happy marriage - but U don’t that result if you’re seeking for your will to be done
* **How do I put God’s kingdom 1st w/ my kids? What are U worried about w/ your kids?I worry about their future; college; that they don’t marry a loser**
* Listen, I think about that all the time - we invest so much into our kids, only to have some knucklehead come along who I’ve had no influence w/ in his life
* And hen I have to take matters into my own hands & I end up w/ a prison ministry that I run from the inside
* But the best indicator of your kids future is what U do w/ them right now
* So put God’s word in them daily - bring them to environments like our Youth on Friday nights where they can build quality relationships & grow
* Begin them to church, even if they’re tired or don’t want to - b/c right now U have the ability to instill this discipline in them - but after a while U won’t
* And if U want to know what life looks when U don’t bring your kids to church, ask around & those parents will tell U to do whatever it takes get them here
* **Listen - we live in a culture where parents worship their kids**
* If the kids don’t want to do it, we don’t do it b/c everything is about the kids being happy - Life is not about your kids being happy
* Their boss won’t care if they’re happy - have U figured out that God’s main goal for U isn’t your happiness - it’s U being holy & godly & faithful in your life
* Instead of us working so hard to get our kids’ will done on earth, let’s work that hard to see God’s will done in our kids’ lives while they are still under our care
* And do U know what will happen? U can’t force them to have a relationship w/ God, but U will create an environment where the encounter can happen
* And that’s God’s desire for U - that U experience peace & joy & freedom when U decide to put God first in your life