

TRUTH B-P CHURCH
Adult Sunday School

SERMON ON THE MOUNT (II)

LESSON NINE: WALK BY FAITH!

I. PASSAGE

Matthew 6:25-30, “²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? ²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? ²⁷ Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? ²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: ²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?”

II. INTRODUCTION

The Lord has something for us to learn about faith. How do we measure faith? Is it by amount, quantity, and volume? Is it referring to how much faith do we have? Is it the way we measure like John Sung who said concerning water baptism: More faith, less water; Less faith, more water? What do you think? Can faith be increased or should faith be strengthened? Are they the same?

I believe it is not the quantity or amount. I believe it is the quality of the faith. It is whether our faith is strong or whether it is a weak faith. A strong faith is a great faith. So great and strong that Jesus says this faith can move mountain even though that this same faith can be as small as a mustard seed (see Matthew 17:20-21). While the opposite is true, those who have little faith, doubt easily, get discouraged easily, give up easily, and lead to murmur and complain easily. And so, it is not the question of how much is our faith, but how strong is our faith to overcome the difficulty before us.

We all need a faith that is strengthened for we know how weak our faith can be. However we thank God that we at least have faith. For without faith, we are completely lost. And we cannot please God at all. The Lord desires us to have faith in God who cares and provides for us. How is our faith today?

III. FAITH IN GOD WHO CARES (VERSES 25 TO 27)

The word “therefore” in verse 25 brings us back to the context of the Lord’s warning against materialism. He has warned against laying up treasures on earth (verse 19), having an evil eye (verse 23), and the attempt to serve two masters (verse 24). The pursuit and love of materialism continues to be a bane to every believer. The world has painted a happy life that can be easily obtained and filled by the things of this world. It becomes the motivation to why one has to work hard in life, if not, he will fall behind others who has worked hard to enjoy the things of this world.

But the Lord says, “Take no thought for your life ...” In other words, He is calling us not to be anxious and worry about our life. Life is more than food and clothing. There are many who have food and clothing and yet they are still living miserable life. We are not to be deceived by the philosophy of this world that we are to find satisfaction in material things such as food and clothing. These things cannot be the main thing we pursue and focus in this life. Life is more important than all these things (see verse 26). God is the One who gives life. He knows better what we are to consider this life He has given us.

And He compares us with the birds in the sky. They fly, sing, and roam freely in the sky. Surely, they do not know how to grow plants in order to feed themselves, yet God takes care of them. They are able to find food everywhere as God supplies them. There is no need to worry at all. As God's children, we must have faith in God who cares for us. God cares more for our life than we care for our body which needs food and clothing. God wants us to consider Him because He is the Source of our life. Without Him, we have no life at all.

It is a deep consideration how we must have faith in this God who cares. He is a personal God. He is interested in our affairs. He wants us to worship Him and fellowship with Him. He does not want us to worry over our livelihood more than our life. And by knowing our life is absolutely secure and safe in His caring hand, we learnt to trust in Him.

By worrying for our body whether we have food or clothing does not make any difference to our life (verse 27). We are not in control. God is in full control of everything that happen in our life. And the good part is we are His people. And because of this special relationship we have with Him, we humbly claim this wonderful promise of Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Let us have faith in this God who cares for us.

IV. FAITH IN GOD WHO PROVIDES (VERSES 28 TO 30)

Because He cares for us, He provides for all our needs. Do we worry about what to wear each day? The world measures a person's status by what clothes he wears. It becomes a status symbol which men pursue after in order to compete with one another. Is this really that important in life?

The Lord used the wisest and richest man who has ever lived on planet earth, Solomon to drive home His point. Solomon as the greatest king in his time, would be dressed in his royal garment and apparel befitting a king in his honour and supremacy, layers after layers, most spectacular and eye-catching receiving the most attention and admiration from the whole world. And yet, compared to the natural and wild lilies of the field which were abandoned and ignored by men, were far more beautiful and majestic than Solomon's royal dress of its value and worth. In other words, God can provide us the finest and most beautiful clothing beyond what we in our own wealth can provide. Even the best workmanship pale in comparison to God's simple handiwork of His creation. It is faith in this God who take delight in providing for all our need.

At the same time, as we are to remember how God takes care of the lilies and grass of the field, we must accept the fact that their existence was short-lived. Today they are here, but tomorrow they will be cast into the oven. In other words, our life is short. And since it is short, it must focus on the more important thing in life. Food and clothing are not the most important things. The Lord has proven in earlier verses how the treasures on earth can be destroyed by moth and rust, and be stolen by thieves. These things are not going to last. And our life is too important and short to waste on the pursuit of these temporal things.

Moreover, we have a God who cares and provides for all our needs. We must focus on pleasing God and glorifying Him with our life. This should consume us all the days of our life, not food and clothing. Let us make full use of this one life for our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us walk by faith, and not by sight. May God help us. Amen.