

Steele Memorial United Methodist Church

"One Day at a Time" March 29, 2020

Pastor Kevin Lantz

cell number: 304 638-4840

Five years from now stories will be told... Stories with heroes who rose up, who overcame danger, who survived and cared for and loved and went overboard in creative ways, meeting the needs of neighbors and strangers alike!

What kind of story are you writing?

For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things... (Matthew 6:32)

These things (these worries) **dominate the thoughts of unbelievers...**

We are *not* to be like the Gentiles who have no God who provides for them!

We are people who have a God of power, a living presence like no other in the universe! This same God is inviting you into a relationship with Him *because* He wants to be your Provider! You don't have to worry!

What is *worry*? Jesus is talking about being so wrapped up in securing things – food and clothing – that you become anxious, disturbed, and sleepless.

It's not only wrong to worry,
it is unbelief!

It is "the cares of this world" (Matthew 13:22), always our little worries, that choke the message of salvation God plants in your mind.

Worry immobilizes,
but concern moves you to action.
Concern moves you to *planning*!

We are being drawn into the mystery of danger over the Coronavirus and the time-line we have to *wait* before life returns to normal, before we go back to work or income starts rolling in again and our stocks and mutual funds begin to show improvement.

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.

As we think about the differences between worry and concern, worry immobilizes or paralyzes with inaction. Concern leads us to planning! Planning for tomorrow is time well spent; worrying about tomorrow is time wasted.

"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today." (Matthew 6:34)

We cannot stop worrying unless we replace it with something better: with *Faith* in God!

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)

The word "seek" means to go after; to strive or pursue; to desire; to aim at and search for the Kingdom of God. Your life is not to be preoccupied with material things, as necessary as some things are. But first of all, desire to become a citizen of God's kingdom!

God made you with a spirit. So the only way we will ever be satisfied is to seek God and His way of life. This world and the things of this world will not satisfy.

Our mistake is making material things our highest source of comfort... The *need within you* is not to be externally comfortable, but to be inwardly spiritually satisfied.

"I sing because I'm happy...
I sing because I'm free.
For His eye is on the sparrow –
and I know, He watches, me."

Jesus Christ came to a world in distress, even teaching that the world suffers disease and heartache – but you don't need to worry! For He has conquered the world, and He hopes you will surrender your life in this old world to Him and invite His life-giving Spirit into your heart!

The Bible tells us that we are moving from a fallen world, an imperfect world – to a redeemed world, a more perfect world!

To me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better ...I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. (Philippians 1:21-23)

There doesn't have to be any question to your identity as a child of God, because His Spirit creates faith in you!

O Father.
You have done it again.
Again.
You have spoken to my heart.
My stubborn heart.
And like warm air that thaws a chill, You have melted my neglect.
But surrender? It's the life-long warfare with my own desires.
I want Your love. In fact, I need Your love!
How can I not trust You?
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus!
Come — and be born again in me — that I may be born again in You!
Make my flesh to be the swaddling around which You are nuzzled and loved.
I want Your life!
And I bring to You my wealth, my treasure, my all – the gifts of my heart!
Thank-You, Lord!