

Do Not Worry, Part 3

Matthew 6:34

Halifax: 8 August 2004

Introduction

This is now the third week that we have been looking at the teaching of our Lord Jesus about worry.

- Almost anyone you talk to would agree that worry is a problem in our society.
 - Not only is very unpleasant,
 - But it also the source of many other behavioural and social problems.

- But we have seen that Jesus sees worry as far more serious than most people realise...
 - He treats it as sin...
 - as covetous idolatry...

- This is evident because His discussion of worry grows out of His searching statement in verse 24:
 - Mt. 6:24: “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.”
 - Jesus is declaring here that it is absolutely impossible to serve God when you are serving mammon (the things of this world).
 - You cannot be devoted to both.
 - If mammon is your master, you have rejected God.

- His discussion of worry grows out of this because worry and serving mammon go hand in hand—
 - If you are worried about what you will eat and what you will drink and what you will wear,
 - It is because you are serving mammon.
 - You are looking to mammon to bless you instead of to God.

Worry about mammon is a certain indicator that your heart is in the wrong place...

- that you are worshipping and serving the creature rather than the Creator...

- That is idolatry...
 - Instead of being thankful to God,
 - you have become vain in your imagination.

Brothers and sisters, there is not a one of you that is entirely free of idolatrous worry!

- God's law knocks everyone of us down flat!
 - When you look at what you are,
 - You ought to be poor in spirit—because you see your wretchedness...
 - You ought to mourn—because you are in such a wretched condition...
 - You ought to be meek—because you realise that you can't govern yourself.
 - You ought to be hungering and thirsting for righteousness—because you see how much you need it.
- But remember the good news!
 - Jesus does not open this Sermon by saying:
 - Cursed are the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek, and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...
 - Quite the contrary!
 - He says:
 - Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted...
 - Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth...
 - Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.
- Don't ever forget how the Sermon on the Mount begins!
 - Jesus pronounces blessing on those who see their need of the righteousness that He came to bring into the world.
 - The ones who are blessed in His kingdom are only those whose eyes He has opened to see the truth about themselves so that they will fly to Him for salvation!
 - If you can read the section of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus lays out the demands of God's holy law and say,
 - "I have kept all these things from my youth up..."
 - Then you are completely blind and self-deluded!
 - Or if you can read these words and not take them seriously—
 - not see, for example, that when you worry about Mammon,
 - you are showing utter contempt for God...
 - that you are like an adulteress who brings her lover in right before the face of her husband to mock Him...
 - Then you are blind and deluded about who God is.
 - But you are blessed if you read this sermon and say,

- “Oh wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of death?”
 - “Lord Jesus, have mercy on me and save me from my sin!”
- If that is your response, then you are greatly blessed of the Lord!
 - For what the law was powerless to do because of the weakness of our flesh, God did by sending His Son.
 - Jesus fulfilled all the requirements of God’s law for His people...
 - If you are trusting in Him, then He has met all those requirements for you!
 - He paid in the full the penalty of your sin by His death on the cross...
 - And He did all that you ought to have done in the way of your duty.
 - And now, He is at work in you to transform you into what He calls you to be...
 - He is at work in you to help you learn to observe all that He has commanded.
 - Regarding worry,
 - He is working in you to bring you from worry over idols to trust in your heavenly Father!

So if you are resting in Jesus as Saviour,

- Read these words about worry with joyful hope!
- The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is leading you away from such worry and into the sweet trust that is the inheritance of God’s people.

So far, I have shown you five of six things that Jesus sets forth for His disciples to do when worry comes...

- Let me take a moment to review them...

1) First, When worry comes, remember that your life is more than food and your body more than clothing.

- Your purpose goes well beyond a mere biological existence.
- You were created to glorify and enjoy God,
 - not merely to try to survive comfortably in this present world.
 - You were made in the image of God with the ability to know Him, worship Him, thank Him, depend on Him, serve Him, and enjoy Him.
 - Don’t content yourself with mere survival—even if it is luxurious survival.

- 2) Second, When worry comes, consider how God cares for the birds.
 - They neither plant their food, nor store it in barns...
 - Yet God provides for them day after day, season after season, year after year.
 - How much more will He provide for you who have been made in His image!
 - Don't miss what this passage is saying—
 - Jesus is not telling you to live like birds who neither grow nor store their food...
 - God has commanded us, as human beings, to provide in that way...
 - But the point is that if He even provides for birds who cannot do these things...
 - How much more for us who do!
- 3) Third, Recognise that you are not God.
 - You can't even add a 18 inches to your height...
 - You cannot control the outcome—only God can.
 - It is for you to fulfil your calling—to plant and water—but it is God who gives the increase.
 - You worry when you think it is up to you to give the increase—
 - You must come to see that you have no control of that!
 - You must leave the outcome in God's hands.
- 4) Fourth, Stop acting like a pagan—as if you have no heavenly Father.
 - When you worry, you are acting like an unbeliever (as Jesus says, a Gentile) who is without God in the world.
 - The Gentile has every reason to be worried...
 - He is going to lose everything, and to a certain extent, he knows it...
 - But Christian, you are not without God—
 - You have a Father in heaven who has promised to bless you!
 - And what a kind, wise, gracious, and powerful Father He is!
 - He has made all things subservient to your salvation.
 - There is no cause for worry.
- 5) Fifth, Return to the service of God—He will take care of you.
 - When worry comes, it is a sure sign that you are serving things instead of God...

- Your priorities have shifted—
- You have decided that to be blessed you have to have a certain amount of food or clothes or a certain standard of living...
 - and that if you don't, everything is all wrong—you are ruined!
- Jesus tells you to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...
 - The kingdom of God is that kingdom where sinful human beings are restored to God as their master...
 - A kingdom where God's will is cheerfully done...
 - You are called to devote yourself to the pursuit and promotion of this kingdom of righteousness...
 - to seek it more than worldly success, more than worldly peace and comfort, more than popularity, more than anything else!
 - As soon as worry comes, it is a sure sign that you need to turn back to the pursuit of this kingdom.

These are the five things we have looked at so far that Jesus tells you do when worry comes.

- Today we come to the sixth thing that Jesus tells you to do instead of worrying...
- It is stated for you in verse 34:
 - Matthew 6:34: "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

This is the third time that Jesus has said, "Do not worry" in this passage,

- This is the first time He says, "do not worry about tomorrow."
 - But if you think about it, there is not much worry that is not worry about tomorrow.
 - When you say,
 - "What shall we eat?" and
 - "What shall we drink?" and
 - "What shall we wear?"
 - you are worried about tomorrow.
- But Jesus is not simply repeating Himself here.
 - The concern of this verse grows out of the previous verse where He just called us to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness..."
 - We saw there that our anxiety about what we have or don't have in this world keeps us from seeking the kingdom...

- And here Jesus points us to the fact that such worry takes us away from the work that God has given us to do right now—today.

This sixth piece of counsel may be summarised like this:

- When worry comes, get busy with today’s work—tomorrow is for tomorrow’s work.

I. You see, worry is trying desperately to draw you away from God’s work for today!

A. Worry comes along and it says:

1. What are you going to do if you don’t have enough money to retire?

- You have to have this certain amount!
 - What if the market crashes and you lose everything you have?
 - What will you do then?
- And the more it can get you worked up,
 - the more it draws you away from whatever you need to be doing today.

2. Worry has a way of paralysing you.

a. For example, take a farmer.

- God calls the farmer to plant his crops during the planting season...
 - But worry comes along and it says...
 - “What if a storm comes and destroys everything... then you will have wasted all your time?”
 - “What if vandals come and burn your barn with all the grain you have harvested before you even get to market?”
 - “What if the price goes down and you make no profit?”
 - “What if you can’t hire enough servants to get the work done?”
- Worry is trying to get this man to give up...
 - It wants him to say,
 - “What’s the use? Why should I even bother?”
 - “It won’t do any good to plant my crops—something will probably happen to them anyway.”

TRANS> That’s the way worry works on us to draw us away from doing God’s will.

b. But our Lord is teaching us here to not let that happen!

- Instead of fretting about what might happen tomorrow, go ahead and do what He has called you to do today!
 - Make it a way of life to do the next thing He has given you to do!
 - Go on and do it **now!**
 - Don't even let worry keep you from the little things...things that might seem trivial...

1) Sue is standing in front of a huge pile of ironing!

- There was sickness in the home last week and she is behind...
- She is wringing her hands and looking at the pile and saying,
 - "I've got so much to do, How can I ever get it all done?"
 - "It's impossible!"
- So what does she do?
 - The only logical thing!
 - She goes to the kitchen and gets the candy bucket, then goes to the recliner and picks up the remote control....
 - "I just can't handle all this today," she says.
 - Then she gets the phone and calls her friend to discuss a problem she is having with a neighbour...
 - Soon her whole day is gone...
 - Now she has guilt to add to her load...
 - and an even deeper hole to dig out of!
- In Matthew 6:34 Jesus is telling Sue—"Go do the ironing."
 - "Whether or not you get all of the work on your list done today is not today's concern!"
 - "Today's concern is **the next thing you need to do** in loving service for God and for your neighbour."
 - "If ironing is the next thing, then iron to the glory of God and then go on to the next thing."
 - Leave the future with God—you concentrate on today.
 - God has not called you do all the things on your list now,
 - He has called you to do the next thing on your list...
 - It is true that you can't do them all now, but you can do the next thing.

- Sitting around with the candy bucket, the remote, and the telephone is not the next thing—
- it is not seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.
- Go do the ironing!

2) And there is Joe...

- Joe is all concerned about how he is ever going to pay the bills this month!
 - He is so concerned about it that he hasn't prayed or had family worship for three days!
 - Nor has he had time to talk to his wife about a struggle she has been having with one of the children.
- It's not really clear what Joe **has** been doing with all his time...
 - He showed up late to work twice and went home early with a headache one day...
 - But in **his** mind, he has been very busy and has more than he can handle right now.
- When Jesus says, "don't worry about tomorrow—sufficient for today is its own troubles,"
 - He is telling Joe to get on with doing God's will today!
 - He has plenty to do today and he needs to get on with it...
 - Go and pray!
 - Go and do family worship!
 - Go and talk to your wife and minister to her!
 - Go and do your daily work!
 - Joe is acting like the Lord has nothing for him to do but sit around fretting about tomorrow!
- Incidentally, today's work for Joe **may** include taking on a second job to pay the bills—
 - He might need to take a morning paper route or something...
 - or he might need to find ways to cut spending...
 - The point is not that tomorrow's bills is never today's concern in any way whatsoever and that you should never think about it...
 - It is rather that instead of worrying and fretting about it,

- you should get on with **doing** something about it.
- There is a great difference in planning and acting verses fretting and becoming paralysed.

TRANS> Now let's take a look at Sally

3) Sally flew off the handle at Barb...

- Barb's mother has Alzheimer's and has to have someone watch her all the time.
- Barb and her husband decided last year to take care of her at home.
 - Barb's husband is out of town,
 - so Barb had innocently asked Sally if she could come over on Tuesday evening to watch her mother while she ran some errands.
- Sally, who is not always comfortable with Barb to start with, was already feeling pressed with all she had to do...
 - Her mother in law (whom she doesn't get along with) was coming for a month long visit on Wednesday...
 - Sally is feeling a bit overwhelmed in preparing for her.
- Probably, it would have been perfectly legitimate for her to graciously decline,
 - and decline she did—but not very graciously!
 - “Don't you realise you're not the only one who has a lot of things to do?” she quipped!
 - “Tuesday is the **only** night I have to go shopping and you expect me to just drop everything and come to watch your mother?”
 - Then she stormed off.
- Sally knew that he had done wrong.
 - Now she is home and she knows she needs to ask Barb's forgiveness...
 - But instead, she has been walking around the house like a powder keg—
 - her children can always tell when they need to get out of the way...

- the family is walking on eggshells wondering when she is going to explode...
- Instead of going to talk to Barb,
 - Sally is worrying about what **might** happen when she does.
 - Barb will probably not want to talk to me...
 - It probably won't do any good to go to her anyway...she is always so on top of things, she won't understand...
 - It will probably just make things worse to bring up again... it would be so awkward—
 - I should just let it blow over...
- Do you see what Sally is doing?
 - Instead of doing what she needs to do today—what she needs to do next—she is fretting about what might happen tomorrow...
 - Her present concern should be to do what God calls her to do—
 - “Go and reconcile with your sister...”
 - If Barb doesn't respond well,
 - that is not “today's” concern, that is “tomorrow's” concern.
 - She doesn't have to deal with Barb's response until Barb's response is given!
 - Right now, she has something else to do—go and ask forgiveness!
 - Sally has loaded “tomorrow's” concern onto today...
 - And that is exactly what Jesus forbids us to do.

TRANS> Worry has a way of paralysing you. It tries to keep you from doing what God has called you to do today.

B. Now I want you to consider for a moment why it is that worry is often so successful in taking hold of us...

1. Have you ever noticed how it often seems like we are greatly attracted to worry?
 - How it seems like we almost welcome it and then can't bare to let it go?
 - a. Just talk to someone who is full of worry!

- You can reason them out of one thing, and will immediately they will come up with another.
 - They just can't bare to let it go.
- b. Why are human beings so attracted to worry?
- Well now I would suggest that the reason we are attracted to worry is because we use worry to justify sinful behaviour.
 - First, we use it when we are angry with God about what is happening to us and want to justify our grumbling—
 - Secondly, we use it when God has called us to do something we don't want to do and we want to legitimise our refusal.
 - Lets examine this second reason first...
2. We are attracted to worry because it offers a very convenient excuse for getting out of something distasteful that God has called us to do today.
- a. Don't you think that was the case with Sally?
- 1) Sally's worry that Barb might not be willing to hear her was really just a way of avoiding the unpleasant duty of going to ask her for forgiveness.
 - 2) Be honest with yourself when worry comes...
 - Often you will find that you are just trying to get out of something unpleasant.
 - Don't be afraid to be honest...
 - There is forgiveness with God...
- b. Solomon talks about the lazy man who says:
- Pr 22:13: "*There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!*"
- 1) Little Billy was playing outside all day, but now Mom has asked him to take out the garbage.
 - Suddenly it occurs to him that there might be a bear next to the garbage cans...
 - One of the neighbours saw a bear last week!
 - "But Mom, I can't take the garbage now—I might get attacked by that bear!"
 - Of course the real problem is that little Billy doesn't **want** to take out the garbage.
 - Worry is an ally that comes to rescue him from the terrible task!

2) Isn't that really what the problem always is when you let worry keep you from today's task?

- Isn't the real problem that you don't **want** to do your Master's will?

a) Think about this for a minute!

- Even if you knew something bad were going to happen to you,
 - shouldn't you still want to do God's will more than anything else?
- Even if Sue knew that she wouldn't finish all her work that week,
 - should that keep her from doing the ironing now?
- Even if Sally knew that Barb would reject her when she went to her,
 - should that keep her from doing what Christ commanded her to do when she has sinned against her sister?
 - Do you have to try to guess whether or not you will be successful before you take steps to reconcile with someone?

3) The Apostle Paul had it right when he went up to Jerusalem...

- He was told by those who had the gift of prophecy that he would be bound and handed over to the Gentiles.
 - Everyone told him not to go.
 - But even though Paul **knew** that trouble was going to come, he said:
 - "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 21:13).
- You see, Paul was not worried about tomorrow even when he knew for certain that tomorrow would involve his arrest...
 - Today was the day to do God's will. Tomorrow was in God's hands.
 - Do not let worry about tomorrow keep you from doing the will of God today!

3. Do you see what a major problem this is in our day?

a. There are people that are totally paralysed by worry!

- They will not serve God because "people might reject me"...
- or because they might be disappointed: "It might not make things any better anyway."

- Do you see how utterly self-focused this is?
 - The glorious God who reigns in heaven has called you to do something...
 - But you don't want to because it might not turn out as you wish!
- b. What is that next to our Lord Jesus who went all the way to the cross for the glory of God?
- And you won't serve Him because you are afraid that in doing so, things might not turn out the way you would like?
 - If you are God's servant, those future things are not your concern!
 - You are called to obey God today!
 - Tomorrow will take care of itself!
 - You are God's servant!
 - If He has something for you to do today,
 - you are not to refuse or hesitate because of what might happen tomorrow!
 - Tomorrow is in His hands...
 - So what if you are rejected or robbed or whatever!
 - It is God's will!
 - Your only concern in life should be to please Him.
 - Since when is it your duty to decide whether you will obey Him today based on what might happen tomorrow?
4. Of course you are not alone when you use worry to try to legitimise your refusal to do today's work...
- a. You are in the company of the lazy servant that Jesus speaks about...
- He was given a task to invest his master's money...
 - and he began to worry about how things might turn out if he did.
 - He was completely paralysed by worry.
 - When his master came to find out what he had done, he had already prepared his little speech:
 - Matthew 26:24-25: 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is yours*.'

- His Lord was also ready with an answer:
 - Matthew 26:26-27: ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.... cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

b. You deceive yourself when you think worry is a legitimate excuse.

- I suppose this man thought the Lord would surely feel sorry for him when he learned of his fears...
 - All the while this man was living his life under the delusion that he would find sympathy.
 - Instead he received judgement!

II. Surely you can see that it is absolute folly to add tomorrow’s troubles to today!

A. All you accomplish is adding to your burden to produce such a burden that you cannot possibly bear it!

1. Jesus readily admits that your days will be full of troubles.

a. He does not try to paint a rosy picture...

- To His own disciples He warned:
 - “In the world you will have tribulation.”
- When a disciple wanted to follow Him, He warned:
 - “Foxes have holes and the birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

b. You live in a fallen world and there is no two ways about it—

- His word tells us:
 - Acts 14:22: "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."
 - 1 Tim 3:12: Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

TRANS> There will be plenty of troubles each day...

2. But surely these troubles are enough!

a. When Jesus says,

- “Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

- He is saying, “You already have enough for today—don’t add tomorrow’s troubles!”
 - God supplies you with grace to bear today’s troubles...
 - They are perfectly fitted to you to bring about God’s gracious purpose in you.
 - But if you load on tomorrow’s troubles,
 - God does not promise you grace for those...
 - He only gives you grace for the troubles He has given you to bear today.

b. Matthew Henry’s words are well worth quoting here:

- “We need not accumulate burdens by *anticipating* our trouble, nor borrow perplexities from tomorrow’s evils to add to those of this day. It is uncertain what tomorrow’s evils may be, but whatever they be, it is time enough to take thought about them when they come. What a folly it is to take that trouble upon ourselves this day by care and fear, which belongs to another day, and will be never the lighter when it comes? Let us not pull together at once that which Providence has wisely ordered to be borne out by parcels. The conclusion of this whole matter then is, that it is the will and command of the Lord Jesus, that his disciples should not be their own tormentors, nor make their passage through this world more dark and unpleasant, by their apprehension of troubles, than God has made it by the troubles themselves.”

B. But when you add tomorrows troubles to today’s, it invariably leads to grumbling.

1. And this is the second reason I mentioned as to why we seem to be so fond of worry...
 - Perhaps you didn’t have enough wrong in your life to justify your complaining, so you add some things that might happen.
 - You are unhappy with what God has done or is doing, and you want to cast up a case against Him...
 - So you start to let your mind run wild and come up with all sorts of things that might happen...
 - Now you have good reason to sulk and complain.
2. The children of Israel grumbled when they came out of Egypt because they anticipated starvation and destruction at the hand of the Canaanites.
 - Instead of trusting God to fulfil His promises tomorrow as He had fulfilled them in the past...

- They began to fret and worry about what was going to happen to them tomorrow—
 - “We will fall by the sword and our children will become victims.” they said.
 - Before you start to criticise them,
 - Consider how often the same spirit of worry has kept you from doing God’s will today!
 - Consider how often it has caused you to grumble and complain about whatever God has given you.
3. This grumbling is highly displeasing to the Lord...
- a. You are acting like you want a new master because God has given you a raw deal...
 - But my child is sick and may even die...
 - But I might get laid off!
 - It would have been better to we had remained in Egypt!
 - b. There is no greater way to dishonour God than this!
 - To declare Him to be such a wretched master that you would rather be in the service of a tyrant and oppressor!
 - What an offense it is to say that of the One who not only gives us every bite of food we have ever eaten...
 - but who also gives us eternal life through the free offering of His only Son for our sins on the cruel cross!
 - c. What base ingratitude this!
 - Yet, have such thoughts never entered your own heart?
 - Are you always so cheerful and eager to serve Him as you ought to be?
 - Such grumbling comes when you take a wrong view of tomorrow!
 - When you forget the tomorrow that He promises you...
 - and when you start to fret about some other tomorrow.

III. Your view about tomorrow has to do with your whole life in the gospel!

A. There is a sense in which the whole of the Christian life is about tomorrow.

- 1. The only reason you can serve God today is because you believe His promise about tomorrow.
 - a. You believe that in this world you will have tribulation,

- but you are also of good cheer because you believe that Jesus has overcome the world.
- b. You believe that whatever sufferings are yours today,
 - that these are working for you a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory tomorrow.
 - c. You believe that even though you continue to struggle with sin today...
 - that tomorrow—when Jesus comes—you will be perfected.
 - d. You believe that even though you are rejected by this world today...
 - you will be openly acknowledged and acquitted in eternal glory tomorrow.
 - e. You believe that even though your body is racked with pain today,
 - that tomorrow this corruptible will put on incorruption and this mortal will put on immortality!
 - f. You know that even though you see Him only in part now...
 - That you will see Him as He is and delight in His glorious fullness for ever and ever tomorrow!
2. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is that tomorrow is in God's hands...
 - And He has told us that all who believe on Jesus Christ will have a very glorious tomorrow.
 - He has also told us that we will not get to that tomorrow but through tribulation today...
 - But we are not worried about tribulation today because tomorrow everything will be resolved—
 - Everything will be renewed—
 - Everything will be made right.
 - Every tomorrow that comes to you will work together to bring about that glorious tomorrow at the end when you meet your Saviour!
 - If you are trusting in Jesus Christ, there is nothing wrong with tomorrow at all!
 - There is nothing to complain about, there is nothing to keep you from your calling today.
 3. When you worry about tomorrow,
 - You are not trusting God to take care of tomorrow.

- You are supposing that something is going to happen that will ruin everything!
- But if you are in Christ, that is not even a possibility!
- Things simply cannot and will not be spoiled for all those who are in Christ.

B. And all this trust about tomorrow gives you a heart to serve today.

1. When Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, he spoke about faith, love and hope instead of faith hope and love (as he did to the Corinthians).

- The Corinthians' problem was a lack of love, so Paul emphasised love.
- But the Thessalonians' problem was tribulation, so Paul emphasised hope...
 - It was **hope** that enabled them to receive the word in much affliction with joy of the Holy Spirit....
 - They were waiting for God's Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
 - They didn't care about trouble today because they had hope for tomorrow.

2. But you see, if you don't have certainty about tomorrow, you won't be able to serve God today.

- Jesus is said to
 - "release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

a. Until you have faith in Christ, you are paralysed by worry about tomorrow...

- You cannot serve God because the fear of death keeps you bound...
- You can't move about freely because of the dread and terror of judgement.
 - You are not comfortable with God and with what He is going to do...
 - You are suspicious of Him and filled with fear.
 - And well you should be!
 - His curse is clinging to you until you reconcile with Him through faith in Jesus Christ!

b. Don't you see, that's what keeps people from serving God today!

- They may serve false gods that they have fashioned in their own minds...
- But they don't serve the God who cursed this world because of our sin and sent today's trouble our way...

- A God that curses the world is understandably a terror to you if you are without Christ!
- And it is true!
 - If He sends these things today, what will He send tomorrow?
 - Today's troubles are but a shadow of the wrath that will come at the last day...
 - When:
 - "the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

3. But listen to me—

- There is an escape from all this worry about tomorrow!
 - Not just a way to feel better about it,
 - but a way to insure that tomorrow will be a blessing instead of a curse!
- a. Yes, we see God's wrath upon the world today...
 - But we also see Jesus who bore God's curse for the sins of the world!
 - And God accepted Him as a sacrifice for us and demonstrated that by raising Him from the dead.
- b. All who trust in Jesus and this sacrifice that He made have a glorious tomorrow to look forward to...
 - It is a sure tomorrow that no one needs to worry about!
 - It is a tomorrow where God's curse is completely removed!
 - It is a tomorrow that give you hope instead of worry about every tomorrow that will ever come...
 - It channels every one of them into this glorious hope.
 - And so today God calls you to believe on His Son...
 - Then this glorious tomorrow—this tomorrow of peace—will be yours.
 - "Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow."
 - Today is the day of salvation!

Let us come now and ask God to establish us in the hope of this glorious tomorrow!

Please stand for prayer.

Gracious Heavenly Father,

- We praise you for the bright tomorrow that you have promised to us in Jesus Christ.
 - Teach us to rest securely in your care that we might serve you today.
 - Forgive us for our lack of faith in your promise that causes us to worry and to be paralysed in our service for you today.
 - Banish all sinful worry from our hearts and replace it with hope so that we might serve you without wavering.
 - We confess that we have not been nearly so steady as your promises should make us,
 - but we look to give us certainty.
- May the children among us grow up with faith instead of worry,
 - And may they learn to do so by our example...
 - We do not glorify you or teach them the way of faith when we are overcome by worry...
 - Make us so that instead of dreading tomorrow, we might look to it with eager anticipation!
 - You have plans for us, not for evil, but for good, to give us a future and a hope.
- We pray that your kingdom would flourish throughout the whole world.
 - The peoples from every nation would embrace the glorious hope of the gospel...
 - Strengthen all your servants in every place who are called to preach the gospel...
 - Help them proclaim your Son with boldness,
 - And cause that word to be hammer to break stony hearts...
 - And a sweet savour to draw them to the Saviour.
- We pray for our nation, for we are a people full of worry and not so full of Christ.
 - Begin with your people so that we might show the world the hope that we have.
 - Let it be drawn forth by persecution is that is necessary!
 - We are your servants and we are here to honour you in whatever way you call us to do so.
 - We put all our tomorrows in your hand.
 - Our goal is your glory.

- We do ask that you would give us the portion of this world's good that is best for us.
 - Do not give us too much poverty lest we be tempted to grumble or to steal...
 - And do not give us too much wealth lest we forget you and trust in them.
 - We thank you for the rich provision that you have given us already,
 - And we pray that we might use it for service to you...
 - Bless our offerings, and bless the deacon's fund that we might show our love you and for our neighbour through our offerings.
- We pray that you would teach us to love one another even as Jesus has loved us and given Himself for us.
 - We pray that the people of our city would know that we are your disciples by the love we have for one another.
 - Set us free from our anxious care about tomorrow so that we might be free to minister to our neighbour.
 - Be with those who are sick or afflicted this day and give them a fresh hope.
 - Teach them to wait upon you with the assurance that joy will come in the morning—when the glorious new day dawns that you have promised.
 - Teach us to bear one another's burdens in the light of this hope that we might spread your hope to those that are afflicted.

We ask all these things in the name of Our Lord Jesus,
Amen.