

Daily Devotional Guide

Wednesday March 18, 2020

A - Approaching God – Start with Prayer

Psalm 40:17 - As for me, I am poor and needy, but <u>the Lord takes thought for me</u>. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!

As you approach the Lord consider the beautiful reality that "the Lord takes thought for" you. The Lord thinks about you! Take a minute to ponder that truth and speak back to the Lord.

B - Bible Reading, Study & Meditation

Matthew 6:25-34 - "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? **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? **27** Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? **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? **31** So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **32** For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **34** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Look in God's Word

- What are 2 or 3 things in the passage for which I can thank or praise God?
- What are some things this passage tells me about people, my heart, or the world we live in?

Look in Our Own Lives

- Is there anything I'm worried about right now? What do I feel anxious about today?
- How is God calling me to trust him today? What would it look like to believe the promise he makes in this passage?

Look Outward Towards Others

• Who do I know that might be worried or anxious today about something? How can I pray for them? Is there a way I could offer them some gift of comfort or help?

Summary: Jesus recognizes how easy it is to seek for ultimate security in material things. When food, clothing, and shelter are scarce, people become understandably anxious about how they will find these basic necessities. But this anxiety can become so overwhelming that people begin hoarding wealth. They create ever-widening margins between themselves and the scarcity that they dread, in the process becoming less dependent on God and more dependent on themselves. Jesus urges his followers to find their ultimate security not in wealth but in God and his love for us as we trust in him to meet our needs. God also works around the world through his disciples and their acts of generosity and compassion toward those in need - which are the marks of a genuine relationship with Jesus. Today is an opportunity to be apart of this kingdom venture! Because we have been given so much in Christ, it is our glad privilege to give to others, honoring and reflecting his own compassion.

<u>C</u> - Close in Prayer & Song

- Thank God for specific ways he has provided for you and your family and for his promises in all the places you might experience anxiety.
- Confess 1 or 2 things about which you are anxious or worried right now and ask for strength to trust him in those areas. Say to the Lord, "I trust you with this."
- Pray for someone you know in your family or neighborhood or at church who might be anxious or worried right now? Ask God if there is a way to help.