Sermon Transcript

September 25, 2022

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen. Wow is there a lot to talk about in today's lesson. Let's start with the book of Matthew. Jesus begins by saying, "You cannot serve two masters. You will love one or hate the other. You can be devoted to one and despise the other." And He makes it very clear what He's talking about. You cannot serve God and money. And then He goes on to say, "I tell you, therefore, do not be anxious about your life. What you'll eat or what you will drink. Nor about your body or what you'll put on. Do not be anxious about anything."

Wow! I mean, seriously, has He lived in this world? Does He understand what we are going through? And He tells us not to be anxious? This is crazy talk. I mean well at least seems like it from the other perspective. I mean when we look at the news today, when we look at our bank accounts, and our 401k's. And everything else. And we're going out in the world, can I not be anxious? Everything seems to be going, chaos wise. And nothing seems to be working out. And let's face it, in reality, how much of our lives are spent being anxious about our life? I mean if Jesus has hit a sore point in our life, it's definitely this one.

When you think about it, all the anxieties or 90% of the anxieties in your life are about money. About having not quite enough to take care of what we think we need. Therein lies optic word, what we think. But it's not just about what we think we need; it's about why we think we're getting what we get. Why is it that we can be confident that we have food and clothing? Is it because, well I've got a job therefore I get paycheck; therefore, I can pay for these things. Well, that's our first thought. But it's not God's thought. God's thought is, I'm going to be sure that I'm getting food and clothing because God loves me. Because God has given me good and gracious things. Because God is a good and gracious God, and he promises to take care of me. Therefore, I do not need to be worried about what I'm going to eat or what I'm going to wear.

Because God has promised that I'm His child. And any good father takes care of his children. Now that doesn't mean I need to sit back and say, "Okay God, give me what I need." He's given me tasks to do. He's given me a job to do. He has given me a mind to use and hands to use as well. But these too, are gifts from God. No matter where, what job you do, the ability to do that job is based upon the gifts that God has given you to do them. That too is a gift from God for which we need to rejoice. We are called throughout this whole time to be focused upon the will of God. And understand that will is good and gracious and it is directed to us. As His dear children, He wants us to cry out to Him as dear children ask their dear father, trusting that He loves us.

So, part of that is... And he goes on to hear how when he talks about this, Galatians talks about this. That the one who has taught that word must hear about good things with the one who teaches the word. See all these, the New Testament and the Old Testament, and the gospel are all focused about our trust in God. Galatians talks about walking in the Spirit. If we live by the Spirit, we should walk in the Spirit. So, connecting that to the gospel, if we live by the Spirit, by God's good grace and which he has made us his children, in baptism. If we are then spiritual beings, then let us walk as spiritual beings. And if we are spiritual beings that means we are children of God, must walk as children of God. Trusting Him to take care of us. Trust. We trust Him to forgive our sins, do we not?

We trust Him to give us life everlasting. We trust Him that in the time of death, He will be with us. And we do not need to be afraid. Therefore, if we can trust Him in all of these things, why do we not also trust Him in our day-to-day finances. Why are we anxious? Now just think, and to add that he calls us to give a tithe of our money. In Galatians it talks about paying forward the one who brings good gifts to you. Though you're supposed to pay me and make sure that I can live on the preaching of the gospel. That is part of what Galatians says. And it's like God, you've got it too. And I really appreciate that so thank you very much. It's a wonderful, gracious thing. The tithe is not all about making sure that I get things. That's not what I'm talking about. I'm not telling you guys, make sure you send your tithe, so I get a good pay raise this year because I... That's not what we're talking about here.

We give a tithe to God as a means of expressing our faith and trust that He will provide. So much so that we can give away a tenth of it without even thinking about it because God will provide. We don't need to hoard our money and focus upon how He's going to take care of me. We're to use the gifts. Our time, our talents, and our treasure. For others. To serve one another, to help them carry their burden. Because they are anxious, because they don't understand how good and gracious our God is. We can trust Him to take care of us so therefore we can be generous with others around us. And be more concerned for their well-being than for ours. Because they don't know that our loving father takes care of them, we do. So, we give generously, and we take care of neighbors. We bear each other's burdens so we that we might share in goodness of the grace of God.

See we don't give money because we must. We don't do a good works because we have to. We do them all because we have been given everything by God. And because we have all things in Christ. And because He gives more than we could possibly even ask for. We then go and serve others. And do good works and give our tithes to the church and commission to other places. So that others might know the extreme generosity of our God towards His people. Now, does that mean we're not going to suffer famine, and war and other trials and tribulations in this world? No. That's another thing we need to remember. There are going to be times when things get tight and there are problems. And that in some places of the world it's going to be extremely tight. And I recently heard our inflation rate is something like 8% or something like that here in America.

And then I read in article that in Turkey, the inflation rate is 80%. And now suddenly I'm thanking God for the 8%, not the 80%. It's all in perspective. But regardless of what happens, even if we face famine, even if we are not given all that we need in this life. Even if all of that happens and we face starvation, we still know and can act in confidence that God is good and gracious. And that's the theme. If we are spiritual, then we should walk in the Spirit. That means we do not focus only on the here and the now. Only on what we see with our own eyes and what we experience with our own emotions. See we are spiritual beings. We know that the blessings of God go far beyond the here and the now. In fact, the blessings that we receive here in this world pale in comparison to the blessings that we will receive when He comes again. Or when we meet Him when we die.

See, we are spiritual, and we understand that this world is not the end all and be all of existence. We know that there is a greater world waiting for us with Christ. And therefore, we can suffer the injustices of this world because we know our Heavenly Father loves us. And he will take us to be with Him. So even if in this moment of this life, we do not receive all that we need. We know that we are still receiving the grace and mercy of God. Because we only suffer here for a little while. Just a little while. This is an eye blink of time compared to what it will be with Christ. Compared to what we will live with Christ. This is one mere breath. Here today and gone tomorrow. Why do we need to be worried? Even though we may suffer some things. Do not be anxious about tomorrow. Today has enough trouble of its own.

Well, what do we do with that trouble? Call upon the Lord in every trouble. Pray. Praise. And give thanks, is how we are to respond When we face trouble, we pray. God help me in this circumstance. Please give me what I need, please protect me, guard me, all this, we pray. But do we praise? Do we give thanks? We are spiritual beings, and we understand that there's more to this life than the day-to-day grind that we see before us. We know that there is an eternal world that is waiting. We know that we are eternal beings. So therefore, we are not concerned. Or let's just put it this way, we are not anxious about what happens today or tomorrow. Because we know God will take care of us. To the point of even if we die. Yet shall we live. Don't be anxious.

You are His. You're in the palm of His hand and no one can snatch you away from that. Or anything. Family, heartache, trial and tribulation. Sickness, illness, death. Whatever may come, Nothing and no one can snatch you out of His hand. You are His. And He is with you always to the very end of the age. So do not be anxious. But trust in the grace and mercy and love of our Lord and good Savior, Jesus Christ. May that grace, mercy and love be and abide with you always. Now and forevermore. Unto life everlasting. Amen.