

When I was a kid, Southern Baptists had a program for young boys called R.A.s, which stood for Royal Ambassadors. In that program basic Christian living was taught. We learned about the Bible, prayer, and Christian ethics. But the name itself taught me a very important lesson: I am an ambassador of the King. Ambassadors represent the kingdom to which they belong and in so doing provide service to the king. As a kid I learned that as a Christian I represented God in both my words and deeds. Being an ambassador for God is not a commissioning that the individual Christian can set aside once they have accepted the position and made it public. Just as one cannot lose their salvation, one cannot cease to be a representative of God (try as we might and inconvenient as it may seem at times).

I was reminded of this truth later in life after I became a pastor. Once people know you're a pastor you're always a pastor. When you go to parent teacher conferences, their sporting events, or host their friends at your house, you're a pastor. When you step on a softball field or golf course, you're a pastor. When you hang out with friends or interact with others, you're a pastor. The only people who view you as anything before they view you as a pastor are your family.

But pastors are not the only ones who have such a calling. All Christians need to remember that they are first and foremost Christians. When dealing with anyone, we are representing Christ to them. We are ambassadors of the King of creation. Therefore, our testimony is not only what we say or share but how we live at all times. In other words, the reality is we are always bearing testimony. As someone once said, "You may be the only Bible some people ever read." And be assured, you're being read regularly.

So the question is, "What does our testimony say about our God?" "What do my actions, attitudes, and approach to life say about my God?"

It is from that perspective that we approach this morning's passage. While we will certainly see what God says through Jesus about worry, we are also going to look at what our worry says to others about our God.

Scripture: Matthew 6:25-33

I. The Testimony of a Worrier

A. Testimony

1. About God

a. He is flawed

i. He is not all knowing

- 1) Worry portrays a God that does not know what we need and what we are encountering and are going to encounter

ii. He is not all powerful

- 1) Worry portrays a God that cannot overcome and/or help us overcome trying situations

iii. He is not sovereign

- 1) Worry portrays a God that is reliant upon conditions rather than being sovereign

iv. He is not holy

- 1) Worry portrays a God that is not all good

v. He is not loving

- 1) Worry portrays a God that does not care for his children

2. About God's Word

a. It is false

i. This is a logical conclusion from the above point

- 1) If God is flawed, then how can his word be trustworthy and true?

a) Worry blots out the hope of it's promises

i) This life is all that matters

3. About Our Relationship with God

a. It is feeble

i. We are not in communication with God

- 1) Phil. 4:6-7

ii. We are of no concern to God

- 1) Matt. 10:30; Luke 12:7

B. Treatment

1. Seek first the kingdom of God

a. Phil. 4:8

- i. "When we think like the world and crave like the world, we will worry like the world, because a mind that is not centered on God is a mind that has cause to worry." [1]

2. Serenity prayer

a. Stop worrying about things you can't control

- i. Focus on being Christlike in your actions and reactions

We live in a day and age where fear is used to manipulate us.

Global warming/climate change will be the end of the world! Do you really think the world will end before God's planned end? Do you really think man can do anything to change God's plan?

The other party is ruining our country! Do you really think a political party made up of feeble fallible humans can thwart the plans of God?

Get your DNA tested so you can know if you're susceptible to life threatening diseases! Do you really think you can change your DNA or that you will die before God is finished with you here?

Terrorism! Nukes! Wars!

Ultimately, we either believe that God is sovereign and nothing can keep him from accomplishing his will or we don't. If we say that we believe in the God of the Bible and if we say that we believe the Bible, then why are we worried? If we believe that this life will be followed by a life in heaven, why worry about death? If we say that we believe in a God who cares for us, why worry about our daily needs?

And if we say that we believe those things with our lips why not live lives that bear testimony to that God and to that truth? Why worry?

A Few Good Men illustration.

Let us not be caught contradicting the words of our mouth by living worry filled lives.

[i]MacArthur, John, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Matthew 1-7, (BMH Books, Winona Lakes, IN. 1985) p. 426.