

Matthew 6:34

W	T	T	H	O	U	G	H	T	U	E	F
L	H	T	N	O	S	L	I	V	E	S	O
T	E	H	A	F	O	H	V	O	U	L	R
J	R	O	R	K	M	W	A	F	S	I	I
Y	O	U	X	O	E	O	F	L	S	E	T
A	F	G	W	H	F	I	R	G	L	H	S
D	E	H	D	A	C	O	N	R	T	T	E
U	R	T	F	I	E	I	E	A	O	V	L
N	E	Q	E	T	H	F	K	R	T	W	F
T	H	N	K	T	T	E	M	A	E	G	E
O	T	W	O	R	R	O	M	B	Q	H	H
I	T	K	E	H	T	C	F	O	R	I	T

*Words to Find:
Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

Not Trusting God

South, 1633-1716

While we fret and repine at God's will, do we not say in effect that it is better for us to have our own way? In other words, our worrying is saying to God that we are wiser than Him, and could contrive things much more to our own advantage if we were in control of them. Does not our complaining suggest that we should be running our lives and world and not Him?

These indeed are things that man may not utter; but whosoever refuses to submit himself to the hand of God speaks them aloud by his behavior. Our doubts and fears are a surer indication of

man's true mind and faith (or lack of it).

God, perhaps, is pleased to visit us with some heavy affliction. Shall we now, out of a due reverence of His all-governing wisdom, patiently endure it; or out of a blind presumption of our own, endeavor by some sinister way or other to rid ourselves from it?

Passengers in a ship always submit to their pilot's discretion; especially in a storm. Shall we, whose passage lies through a greater and more dangerous deep, pay less deference to that great Pilot, who not only understands, but also commands the seas?

The **Bible View**



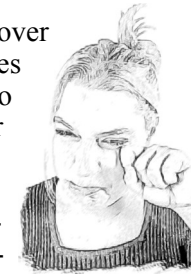

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Look Only at Today's Challenges!

Bill Brinkworth

"And he [Jesus] said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on." Luke 12:22

Worrying over life's troubles consumes too much time for many. Sometimes the concerns are legitimate; sometimes they are only imagined and never come to fruition. We all have been vexed by what we have perceived as problems.



God has much to say about the sin of worrying in His Word. Matthew 6:34, along with the verse in Luke 12, compel us not to worry about our needs and to take life's obstacles on a day-by-day account. We have a lot on our plate for today; do not worry about what may or may not happen tomorrow. Besides, what

situation has worrying ever improved (Matthew 6:27)? "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Matthew 6:34

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Why Worry?

Walter Knight

A French soldier in World War I carried with him this little bit of common sense about worry: "Of two things, one is certain; either you are at the front, or you are behind the lines. If you are at the front, of two things one is certain: either you are exposed to danger, or you are in a safe place. If you are exposed to danger, of two things one is certain: either you are wounded, or you are not wounded. If you are wounded, of two things one is certain: either you recover, or you die. If you recover, there is no need to worry. If you die, you can't worry; so why worry?"



Look Only at Today's ...

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Looking at all the possible problems that could happen on another day is very frustrating. I remember the same feeling when told to weed a 40-foot garden when I was younger. My mother gave me the chore to weed a backyard flower patch. I worked a short time, and then looked all way to the end, where I was to finish. It seemed so far away and impossible. I worked a little more and then looked to the far end. I felt I would never get finished. It seemed hopeless that I would ever complete the job.

Then I came up with a different strategy. Instead, of looking at the whole task, I looked no further than two feet in front of me. Looking up, I saw my short goal, and weeded hard to reach it. When I achieved that mark, I looked up two feet further and made that my next mission. Never did I look all the way to the end again. I kept making short commitments.

I do remember at one point, which did not seem that long after starting, where I did permit myself to look back where I had started. Why, the beginning point was far, far behind me. I really did accomplish something. I was beginning to realize that the task was obtainable.

Again, I returned to my two-foot tasks. Before long, my next look at the two-foot objective

made me realize it was the end. Small bites at the task, and not fretting over the overall picture made the job seem faster and certainly less agonizing. From that chore, I learned to set shorter goals and to keep plodding at them until the main goal was reached.

Life has many challenges that we will face. God does not give us more than we can handle. Be concerned with what God gives us to do today. When tomorrow comes, He will also give us the grace to meet the challenges we face on that day.

It's Okay; The Master Is Nearby.

Bill Brinkworth

"And when he was entered into a ship, his [Jesus] disciples followed him. 24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. 25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. 26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm." Matthew 8:23-24

In this account in Matthew 8, Jesus had entered into a ship with His disciples. Prior to their boarding the vessel, Jesus had healed at least five individuals. Perhaps the disciples had witnessed these

miracles that could only have been performed by God. If they did not see them, they surely must have heard of these supernatural occurrences. Yet, with all they had seen and heard, they were still men and had men's weaknesses. They feared perishing from an overpowering storm, yet the Master of the seas, earth, and planets, was right there with them. They lost their hope. All their past spiritual victories were washing overboard along with the storm's waters.

We cannot blame them for their weakness, as we are as guilty as they. We may have experienced great spiritual victories, or experienced mighty things in our lives that can only be explained by God's intervention. We may have witnessed great unexplainable occurrences impossible by natural explanations. Clearly answered prayer may also have been experienced by us. Our eyes may also have seen God's hand change a hopeless situation into one with a perfect, peaceful ending. Like the disciples, amidst all we have seen and been convinced of, we too can be shaken and fearful. Something unexpected and surprising can make us afraid also.

When, this happens, and we are frightened for our safety, health, or well-being, see what the Saviour did for His fellow ship-passengers that He can do for all of us that have allowed Him in to our "boat", our lives. He instantly got involved and

changed the circumstances.

Jesus was asleep. Nothing was disturbing Him. He was not pacing the deck, and wringing His hands. He was not fretting, because He was the answer to their misery. He was having peaceful slumber, because although He knew what was happening in the future, there was nothing in that future that He could not handle.

Jesus was there at the creation of all that is in this world (Genesis 1:26). He created the waters that were threatening the tiny vessel. The Saviour had total control of the threatening winds that He had also allowed to howl.

Nothing was a surprise to Him then, and nothing is a surprise to Him when it happens in our lives today. He knows all about the doctor's verdict of an "incurable" disease. He knows that we lost our job, and the possibility of our losing the house we live in is not a surprise to Him; nor is the whereabouts and spiritual condition of a wayward child a surprise to Him. He is calm.

Jesus is in control. Everything will be all right. The Master is on deck. It will just take a few words from His mighty tongue to dispel all that we are afraid of. As long as He is nearby in our lives, what are we worrying about?

«Courage is fear that has said its prayers!»