

Sermon Questions—November 4, 2018
Matthew 6:25-34—Hope for Anxiety
Shawn Reese

Context:

Shawn has touched on several themes the last 2 weeks related to choices that are the center of anxieties that can grip us. He discussed the choices around the idols in our lives—idols that compete for our allegiance to God and following Christ. Idols that get intertwined with our visions, masters and treasures.

We hear a lot about ways to cope with our anxious spirits. Comments like “worrying really doesn’t help or do anything to change the situation” or “I can’t do anything about things I can’t control” are common self-help thoughts we use to deal with fears and anxiety. Many times we find that even when we go to God we can get a bit scared of what we know He can allow in our lives that may not be pleasant.

Here are some questions for reflection as you ask the Holy Spirit to give you hope in these choices for your current situation:

Questions:

1. What has been your past response to this text when you have read it?
2. What are the forces that shape your security, worth and identity?
3. V.25 transitions to not be anxious with “For this reason”—what is the reason?
 - a. The idea of our allegiance or devotion to God is brought up in v.24. How serious is your devotion to God?
 - b. How can this truth help relieve your anxious spirit?
4. V. 26-30—What are the parallels today for you that produce worry?
 - a. Is it in the categories of food, clothing?
 - b. Jesus highlights our worth (or value) surpassing the birds of the air. Do you feel God’s heart towards you in this way?
 - c. V. 30—the end of the verse Jesus comments we of “little faith.” Faith is translated lack of confidence. What gets in the way of having more confidence in God’s goodness?
5. V.33-34—How should seeking His Kingdom and Righteousness help us in our battle with anxiety? The idea of seek is “continually seeking.”
 - a. Shawn brought up the concept of replacing earthly treasures with heavenly treasures and redirecting our heart to the matters of God. What are examples of this in your life? How have you attempted this?

In your small group you have an opportunity to be authentic with each other and pray for each other as the body of Christ about your choices. May your discussion lead to a deeper walk with our Lord and each other.