



MARTIN LUTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sermon by Pastor Jeremy Walloch: Throne (February 27, 2011 + Matthew 6:24--34)

Do not worry about your food, or your clothes, or tomorrow. Do not worry about your food, or your clothes, or tomorrow. Do not worry about your food, or your clothes, or tomorrow. Three times Jesus says, “Do not worry.” When somebody repeats himself, it’s probably because it’s important. When somebody repeats himself and he’s the Son of God, it’s probably really important.

While Jesus says, “Do not worry,” stopping one’s worries is often more difficult, because we all have all sorts of worries. Some worry about food, whether it’s the cook hoping to not burn the meal, or the shopper hoping to have enough money for their groceries. Some

worry about their clothes, usually in different ways. I heard on the radio last week that when a woman says she doesn’t have anything to wear, it means she doesn’t have anything new to wear. And when a man says he doesn’t have anything to wear, it means there’s not a clean article of clothing in the house.

Certain words trigger worry, words like recession and lay-offs, illness and debt, turmoil and war. However, all these words are only temporary words; someone else gets the last word.

Why? Because there is One on the throne, and it is not you.

God was around before the world was created, and God will be around when the world is recreated. God formed you in your mother’s womb, and God will restore your body in the resurrection. God was there when you ate your first baby rice, and God will be there when you eat your last meal. God took care of you through your hardest moments, and God will be there in your last moment. God was there when your plans and expectations and hopes and dreams were pulled out from under you, and God will be there when the reason behind it all is unveiled. So do not worry about food, or clothes, or tomorrow, because there is One on the throne, and it is not you.

“it takes courage to grow up and become who you really are.” e.e. cummings wrote that. “We must be willing to get rid of the life we’ve planned, so as to have the life that’s waiting for us.” Joseph Campbell wrote that. “Paradoxically, it is when we stop seeking joy through material acquisition that we finally find joy in contentedness.” I wrote that.

When you stop expecting a meal to give you joy or health, you can enjoy it for the blessing it is. When you stop expecting clothes to give you a new image like a Hollywood star, you can enjoy them for the blessing they are. When you stop expecting God to put you on His throne and let you work out all the details, you can enjoy God for who He truly is. Why? Because there is only One on the throne, and it is not you.

And while worries are hard to give up, giving them up is a blessing. It’s not your job to worry about all the details, about how it will all work out. You weren’t created to handle it, you were created to hand them over, to take them off your shoulders, and lay them at the foot of the throne.

A doctor was asked to give the commencement address at Harvard Medical School. We would be addressing some of the most recruited people in the world, the finest educated

people in the world, soon to be the highest--earning people in the world. And to them he did not have any medical advice, but this man who had money, fame, and power, only had this to say, “Do not worry too much about money, fame, or power—for one day you will meet someone who cares for none of these, and then you will know how poor you are.” I imagine some moment in his life when he saw a child playing with a pipe cleaner, or a college student reading a library book, or a homeless man outside the shelter with more joy than he had, but something led him to offer as his best advice, “Do not worry too much about money, fame, or power—for one day you will meet someone who cares for none of these, and then you will know how poor you are.”

So do not worry about clothes, food, tomorrow, because there is One on the throne, and it is not you.

Worries are temporary and worry words will pass away. Recession and lay--offs, illness and debt, turmoil and war—these words will all pass away. “God will have the last word and it will be good” (Robert Schuller).

Oh yes, it will be good.

May you who have been blessed a thousand times over, not worry, but entrust the One on the throne to be the One on the throne, while you live the life He has given you. Amen.