

Be Anxious For...Nothing

Բանի մը Համար Հոգ Մի' Ընէք

Luke 12:22-31

This is the last Sunday of the year. How fast did 2019 fly by! Are you ready to start the New Year, the new decade? I am ready to say goodbye to 2019 and start a new year. This is it. But more importantly, I think the question is how do we face the daily challenges of the coming year?

Jesus knew that we would worry about life. He said to his disciples:

“Therefore I tell you, **do not worry about your life**, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes” (Luke 12:22-23).

Does this mean we should not have any concerns about the needs of our daily life?

Let us look at this passage in context. Please note that Jesus starts his sentence with the word “**therefore**.” It means the preceding verses (13-21) are related to what he was saying. Jesus spoke about a person who wanted him to become the judge and tell that man’s brother to divide the inheritance with him. Jesus refused to be the judge —not that he could not do it—of course he could. God is our supreme judge. **But Jesus was interested in the motivation of this person who did not care about his relationship with his brother.** In this context, Jesus gave the example of a rich fool *who did not acknowledge* that **material possessions were gifts from God**. He thought he owned everything, including his possessions and his soul. In his self-centeredness, he lost everything. After teaching about these truths, Jesus said, “**Therefore I tell you do not worry about your life.**”

Worry is an epidemic in our society. Let me quote some famous words about worry: “**Worry is nothing more than borrowed trouble.**” “**Worry is unbelief in disguise.**”

According to Jesus, The first reason why believers should not be anxious is given in verse 23.

“Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.”

I don't think God is uninterested in clothing us. In Genesis, after the Fall, God clothed Adam and Eve. God is our provider, **JEHOVAH-JIREH (Yahweh Yara)**: "The Lord will Provide, will see, will answer" (Gen. 22:14).

Yet, Jesus wants us to look beyond those material things. God will provide more than material things.

The second reason why believers should not be anxious is in verses 24.

"Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!"

Indeed, as we look at our lives, let us not forget **the Grace** that was offered by His Son Jesus, who was born like a baby like us to enlighten our dark world. He became like us and then he died on the cross so we can find salvation from sin through His Grace. **We are valuable to God.** God does not want anyone to be lost. **"This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."** (1 Tim. 2:3-4)

The third reason why believers should not be anxious is in verse 25.

"Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

"Worry does not relieve tomorrow of its stress, it merely empties today of its strength."

God is in charge. Relax and live the life that He wants you to live.

The key verse is verse 31.

"But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well."

I would like to finish my last sermon of the year with this verse. We did study this verse so much during the year 2019. Seeking the kingdom of God means giving priority to God in your daily life matters.

Look back at the year 2019. Ask yourself these questions.

"Am I member in His Kingdom?"

Did my life glorify God?

Did I obey His will?

Did I have an intimate relationship with Him?

Did I become a blessing to the 'unknown other'?"

Now also you can start the year saying: “God, I dedicate the New Year to you. May I glorify you in my daily life, may I obey you every day, may I continue my intimate relationship with you, and may I be a blessing to “others”.

Welcome to the New Year 2020. Happy New Year to all of you!