

XV Trinity 2025

Sermon – Saint Joseph Parish

Father Craig Looney

St. Matthew 6.24-34

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“In God we Trust” is the motto that appears on our coins and currency. In the morning’s Gospel from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us we can’t serve both God and money. The word ***mammon*** in the KJV of the Bible comes from a Greek word that means ***wealth*** or ***money***...but it also means ***that in which we place our trust***. Jesus is asking us where our trust lies...with God or in something or someone else?

Our material possessions are not bad things in themselves. God wants us to have the things we need, not necessarily the things we want, in order to have comfortable lives. But we shouldn’t spend so much time worrying about them. Worry leads to more worry and before long that’s all we can do...spend our time in an endless cycle of worry.

When we spend too much time in the worry department, we are demonstrating a lack of faith in God’s love, and his power to provide and care for His creation. Jesus encourages us to trust God, who provides for the birds and wild flowers. We’re more important than the birds and wild flowers. God will also provide for us, His children.

Worrying accomplishes nothing. It might actually shorten our lives. Worry is unproductive and a waste of time and effort. Worry can consume our thoughts and prevent us from choosing the “best thing” ... which is to make God and his priorities the most important thing in our lives.

Fear, anxiety and worry are problems we all deal with at one time or another. We get anxious about many things. We spend a lot of time worrying, quite often about things over which we have absolutely no control. If we spend time worrying about what will happen tomorrow, or next week, or next month, or next year...we miss out on what is in our control...opening our hearts and experiencing God’s love now.

We get anxious and worry about a lot of things: money, our health, loneliness, death, unemployment, the economy, the cost of living, civil strife, war, and natural disasters. The *Book of Common Prayer* contains many prayers that address things that are likely to cause us to worry. The common denominator in all of the prayers is to place our trust in God and he will help us sort things out.

In the Gospel, Jesus talks about King Solomon. Solomon was the son of the great King David and ruled the United Kingdom of Israel 900 years before the birth of Christ. He was known to be a wise ruler. During his reign he amassed a huge fortune...he was the wealthiest man in the world...by today's standards...a billionaire many times over. His wealth didn't bring him peace or happiness or security. He once said people who become ridiculously rich worry about keeping or losing their wealth.

Today's Gospel is all about the positive effect trusting God will have on our lives, but we do have to do our part. Worrying gets us nowhere...trusting God gets us where we need to be...his children knowing he is taking care of us now and he will take care of us tomorrow and forever. God our Father is watching over us. He knows what we need even before we ask...so we should start enjoying life as he intended.

A March 2018 *Psychology Today* article points out unlike all other animals...we human beings have the capacity to think about ourselves far into the future. Planning for the future is one thing. Retirement plans are a good and necessary thing. But obsessing about the future causes us unnecessary worry and anxiety.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said...

...“The future is not in our hands...we have no power over it. We can act only today...we will allow the good God to make plans for the future – for yesterday is gone, tomorrow has not yet come and we have only today to make him known, loved and served. So we do not worry about the future.”

The Gospel message is simple. Do we trust God to take care of our basic needs or do we trust someone or something else? If we trust God as Jesus said we should...we have no reason to worry about tomorrow or the next day...or next month...or next year...and we have every reason to be happy with God's gift of today!

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