

WHY DO YOU WORRY?

Matthew 6:28 (NKJV)

28 “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;

Jesus emphasized God’s providential care as seen in nature. God provides food for the birds, and He provides clothing for the flowers of the field.

Jesus probably spoke of the wildflowers that grow quickly in the holy land after the spring rains. These flowers don’t toil (that is, labor) or spin (that is, spin a design as one might do with thread).

And yet God clothes them in a most beautiful fashion.

Matthew 6:29 (NKJV)

29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Solomon, the wealthiest and most decorated king in the history of Israel, in all his glory, was not arrayed like a single one of these beautiful wild flowers.

Matthew 6:30 (NKJV)

30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

We are of much more value than birds, and the birds are a higher form of life than grass, so how much must God care about us? Even the insignificant grass of the field, which today is, and then tomorrow is cast into the oven, is clothed by God.

The practice of the Jews was to collect these wild flowers, dry them out, and then use them for fuel for heating and cooking. They had no lasting value, but even these relatively insignificant flowers served a purpose and were clothed in great beauty by God.

How much more can we then expect God to clothe us? And then Jesus applies a mild rebuke, saying, “*O you of little faith*”. This is a FAITH issue.

Before God, life is essentially a faith issue. Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). We come into a saving relationship with God through faith, but then after we are saved, He wants us to walk by faith – trusting Him to meet our needs.

Faith in the Bible is taking God at His Word. It trusts in His character to do what He says. Faith in the Bible is always connected to the Word of God and what He says. Faith is not attached to my ideas or mere feelings, but rather to the Word of God.

Genesis 15:4–6 (NKJV)

4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.”

5 Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”

6 And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Abram believed in the LORD in the sense that He believed God could and would bring to pass what He had promised. To believe in the Word of God is to believe in His character – His power – His faithfulness.

Here in Matthew 6, Jesus revealed that the cause for sinful anxiety and worry is a LACK OF FAITH. Worry shows we doubt the promise of God, or we don't believe He is able to do what He says. That is an insult to the Almighty!

He can take care of us! The culture is a mess, but God is still our Father. Politics is a mess, but God is still our Father. We see concerns all around, but the birds are still eating, and the flowers are still looking good – how much more is our heavenly Father still able to take care of us?

If you are dealing with anxiety, let me encourage you to just get away from it all and go out and look at the birds for a while. Let them teach some sound theology. Are you worried? Check out the flowers. They are not there by accident in all their glory. God clothes them in this way, and He is able to take care of you, too!

The antidote to worry is to check out the birds and flowers and then realize that you are much more valuable to your heavenly Father than any of these. He will take care of you! You can trust Him! That's the point!

“Little faith” implies a deficiency of faith and not a total absence of it. Remember, Jesus is addressing His followers who already know God as their Father – meaning that they are people of faith.

But you can be a person of faith and yet have “little faith”. Jesus wants us to become people of great faith – trusting Him for everything.

This expression “little faith” is used 4 times in the gospel of Matthew as a means of gently chastising His disciples and a reproof of their need to grow in faith (cf. Mt. 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; 17:20).