



Sunday, March 22, 2020

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Matthew 6:25-34

Corrie Ten Boom, who survived a Nazi concentration camp, once wrote, “There is no pit so deep, that God’s love is not deeper still.” That is a powerful sentiment from a woman who suffered a great deal. It is one thing to wax poetic about the love of God or the mercy of God in good times, but when suffering comes, our true theology shows.

For many in these days, inch-deep theology has produced in us all kinds of anxiety and fear. On the front end, this can be discouraging. It’s a feedback loop to the church to help us understand the deficiencies in our discipleship. On the back end, however, our prayer is that in these trying times we might find God’s love deeper than the suffering we encounter, in whatever forms we encounter it. For some, this disease may not directly affect us, but the economic suffering that already exists and that will certainly intensify, will have a more direct impact. Whether now or later, we must remember that nothing—not even coronavirus—can separate us from the love of God in Christ (Rom. 8:38-39). Truly, His love is deeper still!

Context

The Sermon on the Mount is essentially structured around contrasts. In chapter 5, Jesus has been “pressing” the law that governs our external behavior into our hearts and showing us our need for a Savior. In chapter 7, He will go on to contrast those who are truly His disciples with those who are merely playing a part. And right in the middle of those two sections we find this section about those who worry contrasted with those who are seeking *first* God’s kingdom and His righteousness.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Matthew 6:25-34

“Don’t Worry”

Weakness of Worry

- Thoughtless

- Useless

- Faithless

Freedom of Faith

- Focus on your heavenly Father

- Focus on His kingdom

- Focus on today

Discuss

- 1) What kinds of things do you tend to worry about?

- 2) How has worrying about those things impacted your relationship with God?

- 3) How does knowing that God has always been our provider (even in good times) bring comfort during hard times?

- 4) What are some practical steps we can take over the next few weeks to focus more on God and His kingdom?

- 5) What are some practical steps we can take to encourage others who are struggling during this time?