

**“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own.  
Today’s trouble is enough for today.”**

**If I didn’t know better, I’d be thinking that Jesus was a hen pecked husband!**

**He most certainly sounds like a Jewish mother...oi vey! Today is trouble enough!!**

**And considering the time and the place and the people he was talking to,**

**his advice not to worry about food or clothing seems a bit outlandish...**

**he is talking to really, really poor people.**

**People without any consistent income, people without a savings account.**

**People living on the very edge of life.**

**How could they not BUT worry??**

**So...is that really what he’s saying...well, yes and no.**

**Here’s the yes part:**

**He is saying ‘don’t worry’.**

**Worry, 98% of the time, is very non productive.**

**I do believe there is productive worry and that is when you first become aware of a  
foreseeable problem.**

**But then, you decide what, if anything you can do about it. If you can do something, then  
you make plans to deal with it...and the worrying stops.**

**If you can’t do anything about it, then the worrying ought to stop, because it isn’t helping  
anything.**

**Now...that’s what I’ve been told.**

**I will admit to you that I do worry about certain people.**

**I don't really worry about stuff...**

**but I do sometimes worry about my kids and grandkids...**

**and, if you are a worrier, you know this to be true:  
it is easier to tell yourself all the logical reasons why you shouldn't be worrying  
than it is to actually stop worrying.**

**So, for all of us: the worriers and those who don't...what wisdom is Jesus trying to share  
with us?**

**Jesus was smart.**

**He was real.**

**He wasn't rich.**

**I have to believe that he really wasn't telling the people not to make an effort  
to provide for themselves...**

**I mean: birds still need to leave the nest and look for food.**

**Flowers are beautiful in their natural state...so is the human body...**

**but we have social considerations that won't let us show our natural beauty in public,  
so we need to make an effort to clothe ourselves....**

**So, what I really believe is going on, is that Jesus is challenging us to become aware of who  
or what we TRUST.**

**Now granted if I go into Macy's and tell them God is going to pay for the shoes I need, they  
are not going to let me out of the store with them. Money does work better in those  
situations....**

**But if we believe or trust that Money is going to protect us from or solve all of our  
concerns, fears and struggles....we are greatly deceiving ourselves...**

**If money is our total focus and determining point of our lives,  
if money is the center about which all of our decisions are made...  
if getting more money is the standard by which we judge our lives and our worth....  
if money is the priority of what we do each day...**

**we have totally missed the mark.**

**We will absolutely lose sight of everything that is most important in our lives:**

**Our God, our family, ourselves.**

**When money is our god...**

**We scrape, tooth and claw, every single day never believing that we have enough.**

**We always worry about the 'what if's'.**

**I know a lovely lady who really did have serious struggles in her life,**

**but now things are easier and she is more secure and once in a blue moon she can look at all the gifts and abundance in her life...**

**yet...she always finishes her thoughts with a 'but'.**

**she's never relaxed about the goodness that she has.**

**She's always waiting for the other shoe to drop...**

**She's always insecure and anxious and nervous.**

**She is so attached to her old life...that she is still living there...the hardships are still very real and each day is filled with anxiety and fear.**

**She readily admits that trusting God was never easy for her, when the stresses and strains of life pressed upon here....**

**She is a perfect example of what Jesus is talking about.**

**I know of another woman who has also had a very tough life.**

**She, on the other hand, has always spoken easily about all the abundance: the friends, the love, and the laughter in her life.**

**She always praised God for every little bit of joy in her life...**

**Now things are financially easier for her and she's still laughing and loving and praising God and but even more so!**

**She is also a perfect example of what Jesus is talking about.**

**The first woman has never learned to place her trust in God.  
The second always has.**

**Trusting God is the hard part.**

**When we trust God, more than money or power or status,  
life might not turn out the way WE want it to,  
but we will always find God's grace and Presence in every and any situation.**

**When we trust God more than money or power or status,  
we keep our eyes and hearts open so that we can recognize the goodness and the  
possibilities that are right in front of us,  
no matter the circumstances that we find ourselves in.**

**Jesus wasn't telling us not to take care of ourselves, our bodily human needs,  
but to prioritize becoming aware of the world of Grace in which we swim...**

**I am sure we all know a lot cynical, skeptical people.**

**Maybe we find ourselves being that way once in a while perhaps  
even more than we care to admit.**

**But I know, from personal experience, that cynicism and skepticism never has made me  
happy...it never led to peace or gratitude or joy.**

**There have been beautiful, trusting people throughout history, including the second woman  
I spoke about today who offer all of us a different way of living through the difficulties of  
life, a way of Trusting God and then seeing with eyes and hearts wide open the beauty and  
wonder and abundance of life, no matter what happens.**

**The most powerful example of this way of living and trusting was a prayer on a piece of  
paper found under a dead child prayer in Ravensbruck, a Jewish concentration camp of  
the Second World War:**

**O God**  
**Remember not only the women and men of good will,**  
**But also those of ill will.**  
**But do not only remember the suffering they have inflicted on us.**  
**Remember the fruits we bought thanks to this suffering:**  
**Our comradeship, our loyalty, our humility;**  
**The courage, the generosity, the greatness of heart**  
**That has grown out of all this.**  
**And when they come to judgment,**  
**Let all the fruits that we have borne be their forgiveness.**  
**Amen, amen, amen.**

**Would we all become as open and trusting as the writer of this prayer.**

**Let us resolve this day, to prioritize becoming aware and celebrating the Presence of the Holy One who lavishes us with beauty, strength, and courage and peace, in all of life's situations**

**Let us resolve this day to prioritize becoming aware and celebrating the gifts of life and grace always present, always here, always now.**

**Let us resolve this day to prioritize becoming aware that life is essentially beautiful, abundant, profoundly, trustworthy and always enough.**

**Let us resolve this day to prioritize kindness each and every day of our lives...**

**let us resolve this day to forever say Thank you over and over again! Amen**