

Our Lord says **do not be anxious about your life. O you of little faith!** Our world is ever working against you, satan, his minions, even your nature, to get you to worry, be anxious. The work of media, agencies, government -to keep you scandalized, living crisis to crisis, that you look to them. Critical breaking news, extreme weather, headlines to keep you on edge, the latest health scare; it's the worse -fill in the blank- than ever. Living crisis to crisis, looking to them to solve your problems. That's why the world, agencies, government to get you to panic over covid, because its their role to keep you alive. But the role of the Church, is to teach you to die, to die well. **Do not be anxious about your life, which of you can add a single hour. O you of little faith.** We all have a problem with anxiety; a distrust of God, to look, trust in ourself, trust in our things, we all do it and this is sin.

Do not be anxious about your life. You stress over much. The world, devil tempts you to waste your energy and effort, to compound your sorrow, create doubts. Have you worry about money, or being alone, or how your future plans will workout, what the doctor will say at the next visit, how will you live in retirement, how can you afford things, to be successful or just plain survive. Tempt you to obsess and fret for your children or your country; fill the news with tragedies and violence. Fills your head with lies and propaganda and useless information. All to wear you down, to overwhelm you, to bury you, with all your dealing with and what live brings. Stop!

O you of little faith! Is not your Lord attending to you now, knowing all you need, all your thoughts? And will He not also be there tomorrow. Our Lord command us not to worry? That you might be exposed and repent.

And do not lose sight of this: **Do not be anxious** is an invitation, a promise. what Jesus has, is, will do for you. He knows all that you are up against. In Him you have no cause to worry or fear. We need not worry about tomorrow because your Lord has laid down His life. You are safe. Your future is assured, certain. There's no sickness or cares of this world that can separate you from His love and care. And it does not truly matter if you live or if you die, rather when you die, you are the Lord's. You belong to Christ. **O grave where's your victory, o death where's your sting.** What was that He said? **Which of you being anxious can add a single hour to your life?** If you aren't able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Do you not see who holds your lot, who numbers your day, who counts the hairs of your head?

O you of little faith! The answer to your weak faith is not you, but like Abraham, hear the Word, receive all He has promised to give....**for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.** Did you realize what that means? That promise? It sounds too good to be true, beyond all thought. **Your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.** He loves you no less than

Abraham; you're part of the promise to Abraham, heir of His kingdom. None of us will have a stained glass window like Abraham and those who surround you, but you are just as precious to Him.

Today has its troubles, world out-of-control, chaos. No doubt of that. The call to -not be anxious- isn't a denial of all that goes on in your life and world. These need your attention and action. Your children need their lessons and their teeth brushed, your mother needs a phone call, your spouse needs a date and walk with you, your friends need a hug, your dog needs a treat, your cat, no we don't care about cats. Even your country needs you, your work and prayers and taxes, to vote, to watch out for your neighbors and on and on, for you to speak God's truth in love to others. These are well within your talents and gifts.

Let go of that which weights you down. He will take care of all things for you as surely as He takes care of creation and your every breathe. The Lord claimed you in the waters of Holy Baptism. He is not going to quit on you. He will provide. He provides a ram in the thicket. He always provides. And your weak faith does not -cannot stop Him, His promises -rather His promises, His Word, Sacraments give you the faith you lack.

What to eat or drink or wear? This greater Solomon -in all His Glory -thirsted, unto death, so you never thirst, wore our flesh, to feed you bread from heaven. Food from His hand. Drink from His Cup, He provides the feast. You wear His righteousness, a baptismal, wedding garment He provides by grace. Joy from tears, Comfort in hurt, healing your wounds, life from His death. Safety from all that frightens or can truly harm you.

Someone you may have heard of, penned a hymn some time ago, during a plague while they stack up bodies and others were looking to destroy him, a hymn in which you are required to stand to sing it, wrote, **take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife, though these all be gone. Our victory has been won, the Kingdom ours remaineth.** For all things pale next to this reality: **It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.** You are worth it to Him that He gives all to have you, uniquely you, for eternity. This is what you are created for, to sing His praise, receive faith, receive His treasures. Live in His promises, bask in His mercy. God is in control. He knows what He's doing; knows what you need, what's best for you. He always gives you far greater than you ask. What could you ever lose that He will not restore to you? **Fear not little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**