

What an anxious people. Jesus issues a couple of rebukes today: **Stop thinking money is what you need, obsessing over it as if can fix your life** and **Do not worry about what you do need. God will provide.** We worry about much, spouse, family, kids, about nation, perhaps the future of the church. We worry about small comforts and inconveniences. You may even worry about inflation, gas prices, politics, government, elections. Stop it. Stop.

Jesus rebukes us for our worries. Worry comes from unbelief. Repent. We do not fully trust in God to know what we need or to provide it. Your heavenly Father knows what you need most in all of life, what you need more than anything: forgiveness, and unending communion with Him. He provides it all.

Our culture breeds anxiety. All media is designed, manipulated planned to: upset you; and keep you traumatized, keep you in crisis. Anxiety, fundamentally comes from the weight of self-preservation; self-reliance; hyper-safetyism, that you can make life safe as we saw with covid; hyper-individualistic with, a pain-free life, full of pleasure without sacrifice. On top of this, there is suffering in our bodies and minds. Added to this, a world unpredictable, unstable, evil, demonic, that works to de-humanization people, and works, tempts to destroy faith and you.

Amazing it's been 25 years. 9/11. If you're over 30 you have stories. Where you were. What you did. What life was like. There's evil forces still at work. We don't forget 9/11, but don't forget about sparrows and lilies.

When you see bird, see flowers, remember your Lord's promises to you. When you think about where towers stood, memorials to heroes, police and firefighter who died that day, memorials to soldiers who fought for our freedoms, remember your Lord's promises. When you face trials, when life wears you down, when you feel overwhelmed, **anxious about your life and tomorrow**, in all of it. Remember the birds and flowers. Remember your Lord's promises to you.

But **seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness** to resist, fight, stand firm on God's Word. We know God allows evil and is always in control. He uses it as a Father to teach His children. This world's sorrows guide us to virtue through discipline and practice. God uses

them to strengthen your faith, set your priorities. As with 9/11, our resolve as Christians and patriotic Americans and our freedoms.

Life has never been safe and many dangers. Our flesh and blood cannot protect us –only the flesh and blood of the God who became incarnate of the Virgin Mary can offer us hope and comfort. He stretched out His arms in suffering that all who suffer might find redemption and relief from this life's trials in His death and resurrection. Only here, His Kingdom, your life is safe, only in Him. **Seek first** He says. Your priority.

None of this is to say, 'don't work', or 'don't make plans'. Rather, in your work, your plans, your concern for your family, be faithful to what God commands and promises. Do your duty. Do not be anxious!

Your life is that of the widow. Your entire existence is dependent on the Lord to provide. She was tested to trust the Lord in spite of what you see, what is going on in this world, in spite of your own reason.

The widow sustained in life. In what she had that kept her alive, points to what you partake; prefigures the Sacraments. Once again in Scripture, you see oil and bread; oil, anointing, healing of baptism that you not die. Bread, He the bread of heaven to eat and live forever. **Oil and Bread, is not ever spent.** The Sacraments never runs out here. There's always more, more to receive, more forgiveness, more life.

Christ instructs you to cease anxious grasping for worldly money and clothing, food, and drink, when you have the Kingdom. Seek it first. Your life priority that nothing rivals, that changes how you prioritize and view world goods. Your Father will provide, not just physical needs, but no coincidence, He says, **What shall we eat? What shall we wear? What shall we drink?** Clothes you in His garment, baptismal righteousness, you eat the bread of heaven, you drink medicine of immortality. **Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, will live forever.**

There is much to be anxious about in this world, but not you. You and I face many tragedies, face many challenges, troubles. But there is a kingdom that endures. You have a Father that takes care of you, each day, every moment, addresses your every worry; will see to your good and prepares you a tomorrow. He knows what He is doing. Trust His mercy. Expect His goodness. Remember the birds and flowers. **Are you not of more value?** You have immeasurable worth to your Father.