



# FAITH & DOUBT PT. II

**Matthew 6:34** *“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

Whenever we are obsessed with the future and refuse to live where God has put us today, it inhibits us from living our present moments to the glory of God.

- **Being anxious** - Is an issue of faith and who we are ultimately going to trust? Will we trust God, who feeds the birds and clothes the grass, or will we trust ourselves, our ability, and our own unknown future.
- **Being anxious** - reveals our priority in life. Jesus’ priority is for us to seek first His Kingdom and righteousness.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6 that every day has enough trouble of it’s own and no one has a guarantee of tomorrow. All we can honestly do is trust and seek His Kingdom in the here and now.

To seek God’s righteousness is not, in this context, to seek justification, it is to pursue righteousness of life in full submission to the will of God, as prescribed by Jesus throughout the Sermon on the Mount. The righteousness that Jesus describes will lead to persecution by some (5:10), but others will themselves become disciples and praise the Father in Heaven (5:16). Jewish teaching would reinforce that these are goals worthy of our wholehearted allegiance.

John Stott wrote, *“In the end, just as there are only two kinds of piety, the self-centered and the God-centered, so there are only two kinds of ambition: one can be ambitious either for oneself or for God. There is no third alternative.”* Stott is talking about the framework of our commitment to Christ. When Jesus’ disciples are assured that all the necessary things will be given them by their heavenly Father, He demonstrates God’s faithfulness by pointing to His care for the birds and His concern even for the grass.

Jesus rounds out this message about anxiety by reminding those listening of God’s solemn promise to meet the needs of those committed to His Kingdom and righteousness, so He says, “therefore” do not worry about tomorrow. Today has enough trouble (Trouble is the word *kakia* - misfortune, or what is evil from man’s point of view) of it’s own. Worry over tomorrow’s misfortunes is dumb because today has enough to occupy our attention and because tomorrow’s feared misfortunes may never happen. It is almost as if Jesus, aware that His disciples are still unsettled and immature, ends His argument by setting the highest ideals and motives aside for a moment and, in a whimsical way, simply appeals to common



sense... while, at the same time, He is implicitly teaching that even for His disciples, today’s grace is sufficient only for today and should not be wasted on tomorrow. If tomorrow does bring new trouble, there will be new grace to meet it.

Faith comes in when we begin to live what we truly believe. Everyone has “faith” it simply all gets lived out differently depending on our convictions.

- Bad faith is when we claim to believe one way but act another.
- Good faith is when there is a congruence between what we claim to believe and how we actually live.

*Good faith means loving the truth more than we love ourselves.*

The testimony of those who claimed to know Jesus was that there was a remarkable congruence about Him. What He said and what He thought were in harmony with what He did. Jesus lived in a way that showed He believed in the reality of God, God’s Kingdom, and God’s presence breaking into this world.

**Congruence** existed between what Jesus said and what Jesus thought and what Jesus did. He believed that there was a Heavenly Father who was always present with Him and always loved Him; Jesus believed that in the way that we believe in the reality of gravity.

Elton Trueblood, *“The deepest conviction of the Christian is that Christ was not wrong.”* Faith involves certain beliefs. Faith involves an attitude of hope and confidence. But at its core, faith is trusting a person. Faith is faith IN Jesus.

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