

February 26, 2017 8th Sunday

## Stop worrying!

Isaiah 49:14-156

Psalms 62

1Corinthians 4:1-5

Matthew 6:24-34

Isaiah laments that the Lord has forgotten him and receives the response indicating that just as the tenderness a mother has for child, in a similar and higher way the Lord will respond and never forget him.

The psalmist acknowledges God as his rock of strength, salvation, stronghold, refuge and he therefore will not be disturbed, ever living in safety. He calls upon the people to trust God at all times and open their hearts to Him.

Paul identifies himself and the Corinthians as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. He warns against making judgments for it is the Lord who comes and makes known what is hidden in darkness and even reveals the motives of our hearts; those deserving will receive their praise from God!

In the Gospel Jesus cautions the disciples to be single-minded in their faithfulness to God; serving two masters is simply not tenable. He then points to examples in nature, birds being fed, wild flowers clothed in beauty, and reminds them that our Heavenly Father knows all our needs so we are not to worry about them. However, our first priority is to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and our needs will follow. Live today, Jesus says, don't worry about tomorrow which will take care of itself.



## Seek the One Kingdom of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah is reminded of the great love God has for him while the psalmist reminds the people that they too can expect such love. Paul enlightens the Corinthians to the fact that it is God who is the appropriate judge and knows what is in every man's heart and only He is the just judge. Jesus calls us to focus our spirit and mind upon the Kingdom of God and constantly make the effort to seek righteousness and all else will fall into place.

Jesus is guiding his disciples into a state of mind and action to help secure a better world and so they must lay aside any worries in order that their whole strength can be put into this effort. Worry dissipates energy and none can be wasted; if they are to worry about food and clothes they may lose sight of their first priority: "seeking the Kingdom of God." Worry doesn't accomplish anything and a way to overcome it is to realize the real presence of our Heavenly Father who is profoundly interested in man's well-being. If God can create the wonderful intricacy of a human body he will make sure we have the necessary work that yields resources to clothe and feed it.

Jesus points to a lack of faith as the cause of worry when he says; "O you of little faith, stop worrying." His words bring an enthusiastic assurance of the abundance in the Kingdom of God and we are challenged to count on His presence!

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