

Plaid Ponderings: Dandelion Roots



Nobody likes dandelions. Well, at least nobody other than my small children. They see no difference between them and any other flower. Most adults however see them as weeds that need to be eliminated. I recently learned however, that there was a point when adults also appreciated dandelions. During the Civil War, the Confederate States had trouble importing coffee for their soldiers. As a substitute, they learned that roasted dandelion roots have a similar taste to coffee, and these roots were frequently used as a coffee substitute. Anyways, whether you are eating them or killing them, the key to dandelions is getting to the roots, and the key to worry, is getting to the roots as well.

In the Sermon on the Mount, our Lord Jesus Christ addresses worry very directly. In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus says three times to His disciples “*do not be anxious*” (Vs. 25, 31, 34 ESV). In these verses Jesus gives practical examples of how easily God cares for the lesser parts of His creation, encouraging those of greater value in His creation to trust that He will also meet their needs. There is one statement in particular that Jesus makes that gets to the roots of the issue of worry. We read in verse 30,

“But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?” Matthew 6:30 ESV

In verse 30, Jesus makes a direct connection between worry, and faith. Jesus connects worry to a small faith, or we can say, to unbelief that God is who He says that He is and will do what He says that He will do. Or another way that we can say it, worry is a product of doubt. Doubting who God is. Doubting God’s Word.

Yet in the same breath, Jesus also assures us of trouble. In His closing statement on worry, Jesus says, “*Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*” Matthew 6:34 ESV

So which is it? Do we trust that God will always take care of us and that we will never want, or do we expect trouble for each day? The short answer is both. We trust that God is at work in our lives for our good as Romans 8:28 promises. Yet we also know that our greatest good is conformity into the image of Christ, not perfect comfort in this life.

Living a life without worry, means that we trust that God is sovereign and at work in the details. It means that we humble ourselves and trust His will when life doesn’t go the way we think it should. It means repenting when we do let a worrisome thought take root in our hearts and we begin to fret and stew about the circumstances of our lives. We repent of that unbelief towards God, and we then express our trust in His will in our lives.

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.” 1 Peter 5:6-9 ESV

Worry is practical atheism. Repent of it and actively labor to put your trust in the good and sovereign Lord of Heaven and Earth.

In Christ,

A Plaid Pastor

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