



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Giving to God Series, Lesson 33

Lesson Title: No Worries In a New Year

Take Home Point: Take off your "worry warts" and put on "kingdom vision."

Warm-Up:

Imagine you are completing the last phases of a getting a new job. You have gone through the multiple interviews. You attended the orientation session. You filled out all the forms for benefits and legal purposes. Now your new employer says, "We are not quite ready for you, but don't worry, we just need a few days to get everything prepared for you. We need you to wait until preparations are finished. While you are waiting, there are a couple of things you can do. First, continue to review the materials we gave you so you understand our way of doing business. Second, call at least once a day to see if we are ready for you. It won't be an interruption when you call; we want you to do it. Again, don't worry, you are already part of our team." What is your response? Do you worry about being employed, or do you do as requested, make the call and ask about progress toward getting to work?

Read: Matthew 6:25-34; Jeremiah 29:11

Observation (What happened?):

According to Matthew 6:33, what are we to seek first before anything else?

What does God have planned for those who seek him first?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think it is so hard to not worry?

What does it mean to seek God's kingdom and righteousness?

Insight:

There are two basic causes of worry – ignorance and fear. Some people worry because they do not understand God's purpose and means of accomplishing it, so they fret and try to help him out, with predictable results. Others are afraid that whatever happens won't be what they want, so they worry and attempt to manipulate circumstances and people to bring about their own wishes. Both cases illustrate a lack of trust in God's perfect wisdom, his plan, and his ability to do what is best. In Matthew 6:9-15, Jesus tells his listeners how to pray. Our Heavenly Father is much more than just an influential and interesting friend. He is God, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, our Strength and our Provider. Jesus knows us so well! He knows we have needs as we live on this earth that may cause us to worry or turn our focus away from the One who provides – things like provision for physical needs, forgiveness, forgiving others, discernment to distinguish right from wrong, and protection from temptation. Each one of these is part of living as a child of God in this world, and Jesus tells us not to worry but to seek God first.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What is the hardest thing for you not to worry about? How can you give it to God?

What can you do to help those around you see with "kingdom vision"?

Kingdom Quest year 2