

Sermon Outlines

Solicitude

“Take no thought . . . Consider . . . Seek not . . . Seek . . . Fear not.”
Luke 12:22-34

CHRIST often used general circumstances in specific discussions. “Therefore” (v. 22) trust is the antidote for a grasping spirit. Let us take the word “solicitude” as the key to our study. A dictionary definition of a “solicitous” person is one who is “full of anxiety or concern, as for the attainment of something.” There can be:

I. Vain solicitude (vs. 22-30)

We are told not to be vainly solicitous

A. *Because of the nature of life* (vs. 22, 23)

In 1611, Roger Bacon said, “A man died of thought.” When anxiety prevails, sad looks and deep furrows tell. Anxiety wrong - same temper as “rich fool” in preceding verses - self-consuming care.

B. *Because of the care of the Creator* (vs. 24, 27, 28)

Ravens an interesting illustration - not eagles or nightingales, but birds of ill omen, birds of prey. Complete improvidence - sure maintenance - yet inferior members of creation. Lilies - beauty as well as life - “much more” - food and raiment - all.

C. *Because of the uselessness of anxiety* (vs. 25, 26)

Does not go deep enough. Accomplishment greater without it. Foreboding opposite of foresight and destroys it.

D. *Because of pagan character of anxiety* (vs. 29, 30)

Brings discredit on God - as though He were not real and true. Little difference between this attitude and atheism - “a-theism” - “no-God-ism.”

II. True Solicitude (vs. 41-34)

We are told to “seek” the “kingdom of God.”

A. *Because this attitude secures the present* (v. 31)

To “consider” and to “seek” brings “all these things.”

B. *Because it assures the future* (vs. 32)

Feebleness recognized - fearfulness forbidden - victory assured.

C. *Because it regulates life* (v. 33)

Scatter, yet increase. “God first” strikes balance.

D. *Because it insures character* (v. 34)

The heart follows its treasure. Picture in Paris of physicians examining dead body reminds us that death is always due to “absence of heart.”

Conclusion

Key phrase, verse 29: “Neither be of doubtful mind.”

The Greek has the sense of not being tossed about on the open sea when one may be anchored safely in a roomy, sheltered haven.

1. *The Sea* - Care

Constant restlessness - dangerous instability - long separation

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2. *The Anchor* - Trust
Peaceful - safe - homelike

3. *The Harbour* - Fatherhood
A relationship

- a. Endearing - "Father" - a delicate child is shielded.
- b. Interested - "knoweth" - a timid child is encouraged.
- c. Individual - "ye" - an infirm child is helped.
- d. Enduring - "have need" - a tempted child is protected.

Therefore, trust all to "Our Father who art in Heaven," and rest in Him.

. . . . *W.H. Griffith Thomas, D.D.*