

DAY SIX

MAKE IT BETTER

The Verse // 2 Corinthians 5:1

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

The Illustration // A Father had just settled into his recliner one afternoon after church, looking forward to reading his Sunday paper, when his five-year-old son Bobby came running into the room. "Dad! Dad!" said the little boy "can you play with me now?"

The father tried to be gentle in his response to his son. "Bobby, Dad wants to read his paper for a little while but, if you come back in 20 minutes, I'll play with you." Though he was not happy about having to wait, Bobby left the room so his father could read the paper.

Since Bobby was too young to tell time, he was back in a matter of minutes. "Dad, can we play now?" "Not now, Bobby" said the father. "Don't bother me until I'm finished with my paper." Bobby left the room again to wait. But before his father could even get to the sports pages, Bobby returned.

He stuck his head up under his fathers paper and said, "Dad, can we please play now?" The father, realizing he would never get a moment of peace, looked on the floor and noticed that there was a full page map of the world included in his newspaper.

Bobby's dad reached for the scissors on his desk and proceeded to cut the map up into about 20 pieces. Leading his son to the kitchen table, he told Bobby to put together the puzzle of the world as the first of their afternoon games. "When you finish the puzzle, then I'll play with you," the father promised.

He knew it would take a long time to put the puzzle together, and that would give him plenty of time to read his paper. Not five minutes had passed when Bobby flew back into the room.

"Dad, I'm done with the puzzle! What can we play next?" "How are you finished already?" asked the father. He got up from his chair and went into the kitchen to look. Sure enough, the puzzle was completed with every piece in its proper place. "Bobby, how did you ever do this so fast? Where did you learn how to do that?" asked the father in amazement. "It was easy, daddy," said Bobby. "You see, on the back of the map of the world was a picture of a man. I put the man together first and when I did that, the world seemed to fit right into place!"

The Application // Read Matthew 6:25, 31-32

"25 Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all."

As Christians, it is so easy for us to worry over each day. When we put God first in our lives, everything else in our world falls into its proper place, just like the little boy did when he focused on the man the world came together. For us, the man we focus on is Jesus, who made a way for us to Meet the Father. Meeting the Father is the first step in living free and whole.

Jesus commanded us three times in these verses not to worry.

Questions to ask:

Why do we worry?

Take a moment for each person to share what they are worried about?

Matthew 6:33 NIV 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The Quote // *(On Matthew 6:31-32) "The verse we just read, teaches us that there will be many days when we will have to realign our priorities. There will be days our focus will get off. Our emotions will hit overdrive and we will totally stress out. On that day, chill! Look to the Father! Do not fear!"*

Pastor Steven Sexton

Stay on Mission : Transition from Death to Life

Oct 4, 2020

Prayer Emphasis // Take a moment to pray over the members of The House, as they begin to pray about making their commitment card pledge starting next year. Let's pray that as our church individually seeks first the kingdom and his righteousness, that our personal concerns will be met in Him as well as the financial goals of our church.

The Prayer // "Lord, we repent of putting the worries of this world first. It's easy to be overwhelmed by all the pieces of the puzzle of life. Thank you for the reminder to put our focus and trust back in you. Help us live free from worry and anything that would distract us from seeking you first."