

The Crowd and the Uncertainty
of

WORRY



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Based on Magrey R. de Vega's book *Embracing the Uncertain*.

His eye is on the Sparrow
(Cavilla D. Martin 1905)

Why should I be discouraged,
why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely
and long for heaven and home.
When Jesus is my portion? My
constant friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I
know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I
know He watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing
because I'm free,
for His eye is on the sparrow,
and I know He watches me.



MONDAY – I shall not worry!



Psalm 23: 1-3 *The Lord is my shepherd. I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; He leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honour to His name.*

I was still a toddler when I found myself on a beach listening to a young church leader during a school holiday camp at the Natal South Coast. My mom, who was busy preparing a meal in the kitchen tent recalls me running into the tent, shouting at the top of my voice: “Ma! Ma! Die Here is my Herder, ek sal nie worry nie!!” Translated into English - Mom, Mom, the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not worry!



Wondering why I was so blessed I remembered again how my two grandmothers always called me aside after their respective visits throughout my life and we kneeled and they prayed for me. They worried about this poor wayward youngster and all they could do was to pray. These prayers always kept me remembering Jesus in my life and shaped my future – even today.

The lockdown gives one many opportunities to remember the past. I stood at the backdoor having my first coffee of the day trying to remember my “walk” with God since I made the statement on the beach that day. I realised that those words were probably some of the most significant words I have ever spoken. My life turned into a rollercoaster of ups and downs but I always felt that there was someone looking after me apart from my mom. My dad was absent most of my life.

Their worries were put to rest by their loving prayers and today I am a proud father of two great happily married sons and a much loved and spoiled husband and grandfather of four happy and blessed grandchildren. Their worry and subsequent prayers for me ensured that I have led a life cared for by God. Please follow their example today and pray with and for your children and grandchildren so that they need not worry.



Prayer: Dear Lord, I am so glad You are my shepherd who can take my worries and turn them into a life where I can face the challenges of life and find Your peace and understanding. AMEN

Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeHCyLdKQsY>

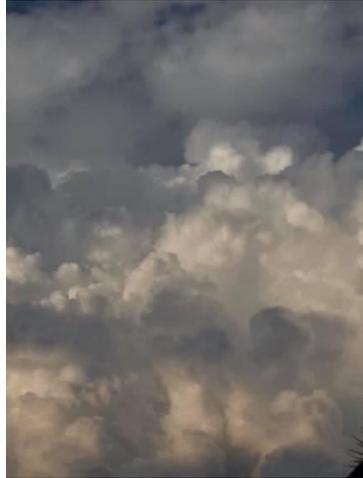
TUESDAY – You never have to worry alone



Matthew 9: 23-26

Then He got into the boat and His disciples followed Him.

Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" He replied, "You of little faith, why are you afraid?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.



Jesus knew that no earthly situation has the power to put you outside God's care.

Just imagine not being worried and afraid anymore. Imagine facing financial difficulties or an irate boss with inner poise and resolve. Imagine receiving bad news and generating constructive ways to solve the problem rather than spiralling through the worst-case scenarios. Imagine facing rejection and obstacles without giving in to discouragement. Imagine acknowledging the mistakes you have made, moving confidently into the future.

Imagine doing all of the above with God as your partner and friend. Now imagine people around you coming to you when they are worried and upset because they find that your peace of mind is contagious. The mind controlled by the Holy Spirit is life and peace, and what you are imagining is your mind immersed in the Spirit's flow. Trust in Jesus has become a way of life. You never ever will have to worry alone and become anxious during any crisis. Jesus' presence and loving care is ever present and way above your imagination and expectations.



Prayer: Thank You Lord Jesus that I may call on You to direct my mind and actions during any worrying or anxious moment. AMEN

Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwudqCO7mSQ>

WEDNESDAY – I shall not want



Luke 12: 15 *Then He said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."*

This was the comment Jesus made after a man in the crowd wanted him to tell his brother to share his inheritance. A poll in the United States indicated that ninety percent of the populations' worries were about possessions.

The occupants in heaven will not know you as the person with the nice suit or dress or the kid with the expensive bicycle. Heaven knows your heart. "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1Samuel 16: 7).

What will you gain with contentment? You may gain your marriage. You may gain precious hours with your children. You may gain your self-respect. You may gain joy. You may gain the faith to say, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" (Psalm 23: 1).

When God thinks of you, He may see your compassion, your devotion, your tenderness or quick mind, but He doesn't think of your things. And when you think of yourself, you should not either. Define yourself by your possessions, and you'll feel good when you have a lot and worry when you don't. Contentment comes when we honestly say with Paul: "I have learned to be satisfied with the things I have.....I know how to live when I am poor; and I know how to live when I have plenty" (Philippians 4: 11-12).



Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to purchase what I need and not what I want. Help me to also work towards what You want me to do to satisfy the needs of others in Your Kingdom. AMEN

Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMTmZKotTYw>

THURSDAY – God has a plan for you



Ester 4: 14 *“If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for such a time as this?”*

We all worry about the future at certain stages of our lives. We worry about careers, our financial status, our children and grandchildren. What is going to happen to our family members and even ourselves?

At just the right time and moment God raised Abraham to start the Israel nation. God raised Noah to build the Ark and finish it at just the right time. He raised Joseph to save the Israelites from starvation. God raised Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

In today's reading we read that Mortdecai inspires Esther to realize that she has been created to be the queen who saves Israel from slaughter. It is also true for every human being on earth. We are all created to fill a specific role in God's Kingdom. Each one of your children has been created to take over from us and participate in

God's plan in the 21st century. Perhaps he or she may become the next Mother Theresa, Einstein, Elon Musk or a world leader. We therefore need not worry too much about what is to become of our children. God has a plan for them to cope with the future.

Likewise, we need to be the best at what God has given us to do in the present. Even if we are getting along in life God may have a new plan for us to build His Kingdom according to His plan. We need to keep on living close to God by means of prayer, study and worship in order for us to be aligned to His purpose for us. Maybe our special moment in time is just around the corner.



Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for allowing us special moments in time where we do Your work at just the right place, the right time and with the desired effect to realize Your Kingdom. AMEN.

Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVqR6kTu8IE>

FRIDAY – Noticing God



Luke 12: 27-28 *Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, He will certainly care for you.*



We worry about the things in our lives we cannot see. We worry about things we cannot control. Many times, we simply worry for the sake of worrying. We worry about the future. We worry about our jobs and how we fit into society. We worry about the things we cannot see.

Jesus points us to the things we can see. Like birds and flowers, and how they don't reap or sow but God still cares for them. Because it is not just about seeing what is around us, it's about understanding how God provides and cares for all creation. Jesus challenges us to

shift our attention away from a future that we can't see to a present that we can see. Instead of worrying about the unknown, He is inviting us to seek the beauty of the known and God's activity in it.

He calls you to see the incredible beauty and splendour of what God is doing in your life right now, which you are missing. Jesus challenges us to encounter dimensions of God's love, grace and work in our lives. It is more beautiful than flowers in the field and feathers on a bird. It is as beautiful as life itself, in all its complexity, mystery, and glory. (*Magrey R. deVega*).



Prayer: Dear Father God, thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross so that we may live; for the Holy Spirit to teach us every moment of every day; for Your Word written for us to know You better and for this beautiful world You have created for us to live in. AMEN.

Song: [Let The Flame Burn Brighter - Graham Kendrick & Psalm Drummers - Lyric Video - YouTube](#)