

14

Overcoming Worries thro' the Cross

Introduction

Several things happened when Jesus gave up His spirit —

Mt 27:50-53 Mk 15:38	Only these 2 Evangelists report the immediate happenings. Both of them report FIRST OF ALL, "The <i>veil</i> was torn!"
-------------------------	--

This is where the New Testament begins!
The *Way into the Holiest* now wide open!
Therefore *come boldly to the Throne of Grace* —
Heb 4:16

The remedies from the Cross for our common worries:

1. Worry over Sin

Jesus prayed: "Father, forgive them!" (Lk 23:34)

- We are sinners, so we sin;
therefore, "Forgive **them!**"
- Christ carried all our sins —
past ... present ... future
It was an "once-for-all" Sacrifice.
- Where are our sins now?
Sea — depth *East-West* — width
Sky — height *Back* — length
(Mic 7:19; Isa 44:22; Psa 103:12; Isa 38:17)
- No more guilt — No condemnation —
- You cannot commit a sin that cannot be washed
by the blood of Jesus
Scarlet ... snow/crimson ... wool
"Come, let's reason together!" (Isa 1:18)

- If the devil reminds you of your past,
remind him of his future!
Yes, no worry about **sin** because of the Cross!

2. Worry about Future

The thief prayed to Jesus for his future.
Jesus replied: "**Verily, Verily, ...**" (Lk 23:43)

- No need to know what the future holds for us;
it's enough to know **who** holds the future ...
He is the Alpha & the Omega.
Author & Finisher.
He knows the end from the beginning! (Isa 46:10)
 - *The good work God has begun in us ...*
*"Being **confident** of this **very** thing ..."* (Phil 1:6)
 - No problem will come to you that God and you cannot handle together —
1 Cor 10:13 ... *No temptation ... too big*
 - Do not be afraid of death!
Heb 2:14,15 ... *Fear of death ...*
bondage ... "all lifetime"
You will not die before time.
Your hairs are numbered.
You are the apple of God's eye.
- Yes, no worry about the **future** because of the Cross!
Fanny Crosby: *Blessed Assurance ... Jesus is Mine!*
This is my story ... song ...
Praising my Saviour all the day long!

3. Worry about Family

God's concern for each family manifested when Jesus said, "Behold, your son ... your mother!" (Jn 19:26,27)

- God is more interested than you about your family.
 - eg) Noah + family in flood
 - Rahab + family in judgment/Jericho
 - Zacchaeus + family ... *“Salvation for this house!”*
 - Philippian Jailer ... *“You and your family”*
- What’s your problem?
 - Unsaved husband?
 - Non-cooperative wife?
 - Disobedient children?
 - Trouble-making relatives?

Solution: PRAY for them!

Jesus : *“Weep for your children ...”* (Lk 23:28)
- Last days: The Devil plays havoc in families.
 - The Holy Spirit counteracts —
 - Mal 4:5,6 ... *fathers ... children*

4. Worry over Perplexities

Jesus Cried, *“My God, My God, ...?”* (Mt 27:46)
 Anything He could bear but this separation!

This is the central cry from the Cross.
 All the rest are statements; this is the only question.

God did not answer the question,
 but gave Him grace and strength
 to go thro’ the situation.

- All our questions in life may not be answered —
 - Why? — Why not?
 - Why me? — Who then?
 - Why now? — When then?
 - Why this? — What then?

- God is not obliged to answer our questions;
 but He gives grace —
 Discipline of Darkness (Isa 50:10)
 Even if God explains, ... our chicken brain ...
“I know not, but He knows” (Job 23:8-10)
 John Wesley: *“The greatest of all is, God is with us!”*

5. Worry about Sicknesses & Finance

“I thirst” — Physiological suffering/ need
 (Jn 19:28)

Isa 53:4 ... *griefs* = sicknesses
sorrows = pains (Mt 8:16,17)

- Believe that Christ is the Saviour of our **body** also.
 Under normal circumstances,
 God will heal us in answer to prayer;
 but not always!
 eg) Paul’s thorn ... *My grace ... My strength*
- Ours is still a *“mortal” body* —
 Now only *“firstfruits”* (Rom 8:23)
 Lazarus died again! Two funerals for him!
 Don’t be disillusioned/deceived by the modern Gospel—
“No sickness?”
 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves.
 If we say we have no sickness, ... ourselves & others.
 NHNE: *No sickness, pain, tears, death, ...* (Rev 21:1-4)
 Because of the Cross & the Resurrection,
 we will one day experience total glorification of our bodies.
- Financial worries — Folks even commit suicide.
 Jesus: *Worry not ... eat ...* (Mt 6:25-34)
Your Heavenly Father knows ...

6. Worry over Work/Vocation

Jesus said, *“It’s finished”* — That’s an assurance that He will enable us to finish our work too (Jn 19:30).

Do not worry over your inadequacy, insufficiency, weakness, etc.

Students: Worry over studies

Believe —

- God’s assignments are only according to our ability
5 talents, 2 talents, 1 talent (Mt 25:14-30)
- God expects us just to be faithful —
“Well done, good and faithful servant!”
- God does not want us to do everything,
but only what’s assigned to us —
Jesus did not come to India or go to Africa!
- God wants us to do just what we can—
“She did what she could!” (Mk 14:8)
The 2-talented man need not bring 5 talents.

Conclusion

The way to overcome all these and other worries is by prayer and commitment —

“Father, into Your hands ...” (Lk 23:46)

First He said, *“Father”*

In the middle, *“My God”*

Finally He said, *“Father”*

i.e. God is our Father!

Appreciation of the **Fatherhood** of God
is the secret of overcoming all worries.

Paul : *I know whom I have believed* (2 Tim 1:12)

Jude : *God is able to keep you from falling* (Jude 24)

Jesus: *You are in My hand ...*

You are in My Father’s hand ...

No one can snatch you (Jn 10:28,29)

Do not let worry worry you;

but worry worry until it worries you no longer!