

# MARINERS CHURCH



## The Lord is Near

11.30-12.1.2019

Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples. Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

Jesus responded, "Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!" Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm.

The disciples were amazed. "Who is this man?" they asked. "Even the winds and waves obey him!" Matthew 8:23-27 (NLT)

## God is in their boat! The Lord is Near.

You cannot serve both God and money. "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?"

"And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field 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 wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?"

"So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today. Matthew 6:24b-34 (NLT)



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Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is near; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:4-9 (ESV)

**Other take-a-ways from these passages about how to not worry.**

- **If worry is wrong thinking, then we see we should replace our thoughts with right thinking.**
- **Instead of being anxious, we should pray**
- **We should learn to be more thankful instead of focusing on the what-ifs and poor-me's**
- **We should "practice" these things – meaning it's not a normal behavior and we need to train ourselves to do life differently.**

Jesus is **Immanuel**, God is with us.

## Talk It Over!

**For your LifeGroup or Accountability Time...**

Read Philippians 4:4-9 together in various versions. "The Lord is near" (also translated, The Lord is coming, or the Lord is at hand) sometimes finishes the sentence before and sometime starts the sentence after. Discuss why that 'pivot' is so powerful to help in really drawing out meaning.

Share a time when 'the presence of God' in your life changed your outlook in a situation, a crisis, a struggle.

If the awareness of the nearness, the presence, the Immanuel of God is so key to providing peace and freedom from worry, talk about ways to grow in a more consistent lifestyle of living in the 'presence' of God.

"Think on these things..." "Practice these things" What does that look like and what result are we promised?