

## Feb. 27, 2011 "Trusting or Rusting" Matthew 6

With grandbaby Matteo still struggling to sleep through the night, I read a story about a worrying wife who would wake up her husband every night, "Get up honey! Go see why the baby is crying." All this loss of sleep really took its toll on the husband. A friend told him about a book dealing with infant massage. He tried the technique and gently rubbed the baby's back, arms, head, ears, legs until the baby was totally relaxed and had fallen into a deep sleep. Climbing back into bed he was hoping for a well deserved lull night of sleep. No way! In the middle of the night his panicked wife woke him up, "Get up honey! Go see why the baby isn't crying." Does this sound like anyone you know? We just have to worry about something or we're not happy.

It has been said that worry is taking upon yourself something that belongs to God. Worry is a sin of pride that says that God can't handle it, so I have to! Worry keeps us from sleep, from smiling, from good health, often from worship, and certainly from giving a generous offering to the Lord. Worry tells us that we can do a better job than God can do. We don't trust that God can make it happen; we have to do it ourselves.

Living in worry and fear is commonplace in our world today. We fear terrorism hitting close to home. We fear that we might get Cancer. We fear that something might happen to our children. We fear that we might lose our jobs, not be able to find a new one, and get thrown into the streets. I bet you can think of other fears that people deal with, huh?

It has been said that for a child of God, trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior, FEAR is False Evidence Appearing Real. Fear is one of Satan's favorite weapons against us. When we fear, we're not trusting Jesus. When we're not trusting Jesus, we fear. This is a vicious circle that can lead us to look at ourselves as our own saviors, rather than to Jesus Who died on the cross and rose for the forgiveness of our sins.

I was reading that according to the U.S. Dept. of Standards, a dense fog that covers seven city blocks, 100 feet deep is composed of an 8 ounce glass of water divided into 60,000 million droplets. An 8 ounce glass of water can tangle up traffic and stop airplanes from flying. Worry and fear do the same thing to us. Things seem bad, but there's really not much there.

What do we need to remember? What can help? What is Jesus teaching us in Matthew 6? We Trust or we rust. The T in trust looks like a cross. We trust or we rust. We trust Jesus or we rust away with worry and fear. I read a story from the Holocaust where Nazis put people in concentration camps, worked them until they couldn't work anymore, and then killed them. A father, his wife, and two children were imprisoned. One son was disabled and couldn't do too much. Each day the mother and sons went out to work and the father was taken to a different camp. After a few weeks of this, the father returned to camp and found only one son. "What happened?" He asked. The surviving son said that his crippled brother couldn't work anymore and was being taken away. Crying out loud, the little guy clung to his mother. "Don't be afraid," the mother told him, "I'll go with you." With that, she took him up in her arms and carried him to theft execution.

Because God is Good.. .All The Time, He sent Jesus to be our Savior and Friend. No matter what we face we don't have to worry, Jesus tells us to not be afraid, He'll go with us.  
Amen.. .pastor matthews