

## **We Are His Lilies of the Field: From A Lay Leader's Perspective**

Hello, Aldersgate Family!

I hope this note finds all of you safe and well. That's the good thing about having a church family; we care enough to ask God to watch over our Christian brothers and sisters. Lifting up each other seems necessary now especially when you turn on the television and watch the news. Let's face it. It's grim out there!

Now I don't know about you, but I think many of us fall into one of two categories when it comes to news watching. There are those of us who need to know and almost always watch the news and then there are those who feel that the carefully coiffed newscasters are like doomsday sayers so we skip the newscasts and then get the scoop secondhand from a friend or family member.

No matter what your approach is to keeping up-to-date with world happenings, I think we can all agree that the coronavirus has caused a lot of worry and consternation in this world. While we fortify ourselves with the Word of God, we are human and worry can sneak into our psyche like a burglar intent on taking something from us. You see for me, Pastor Lee's most recent online sermon, "Unshakeable: In Light of My Future" came at the perfect time. It reminded me how useless worry is. When I wallow in worry I am a little like my dog Boston when he finds something smelly to roll around in. He stinks to high heaven and nobody wants to be around him. The only antidote is the bathtub. Well, Pastor Lee's sermon was like the bathtub for my spirit. It helped wash the grime of worry away.

I was reminded of Jesus talking with his disciples about worry. We all know that sometimes Jesus talked with his disciples in parables, leaving them to scratch their heads and ponder what he said. But in this case, Jesus is blunt. He points out that worry is futile. "*Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?*" He asks. (*Matthew 6:27*) Surely He meant this as a rhetorical question. Can't you just imagine the disciples hanging their heads a little because they were hearing this from the lips of the Son of God himself? They had to know how true this statement was. We know how true it is today.

If you recall, Jesus goes on to remind the disciples that God feeds the birds of the air and clothes the lilies of the field, so certainly he is going to take care of His children. And then Jesus brings it home. I imagine him as being gentle when He shared this antidote to worry: "*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.*" (*Matthew 6:33*). In other words, our imperative is to walk in His footsteps. We just need to concentrate on what matters to Him and He will take care of the other matters.