

"Fear and Love"

There are a lot of things happening in the world today that create an impending sense of fear and anxiety inside of us, adding to our already increasing stress load. We might fear the COVID-19 virus that is spreading across the nation. We hear our nation's leaders talking about the pandemic, a national state of emergency, and encouraging all to self quarantine. We might see our grocery stores with empty shelves and fear for our own personal needs. We might also be afraid of the quarantine itself. What if being stuck inside for several weeks straight makes me stir crazy? What if I fight with my husband or children? What if I can't work? How do I pay the bills? You might say to yourself, "I'm afraid for my future and for my family. How do I keep them safe and provide for them?"

In Matthew 6:25-35, Jesus says, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

God does all of this for us. Just as He has never left our sides in everything else that the world throws at us, He will be with us through this too. God provides for all His creatures. Everything He has created He loves and cares for. We, as children of God, are His adopted sons. We were created in His image. As Jesus said, are we not greater than the birds of the air and the lilies of the field? God loves us so much that He sent his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16) If He loves us enough to send His Son to his death, then He also loves us enough to care for us during these scary days.