

Mid-Week Ponderings for April 22, 2020

*If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds. Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion — do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primer or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them. If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers — most of which are never even seen — don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with **getting**, so you can respond to God's **giving**. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes. ~ Matthew 6:25-34 (The Message)*

Elaine Freed submitted this because she said she is known as a worrier.

If you don't recognize this verse in this translation, I encourage you to look it up in your Bible and see if it doesn't sound more familiar. There were two sentences that really stood out to me in this passage and this translation. The first one is, "What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with **getting**, so you can respond to God's **giving**." I have heard so much appreciation from so many of you for all that I am doing to keep us connected. I am glad that you are finding this helpful. But I can fall into the trap — perhaps like some of you — of needing to **get** things done, rather than pausing to look around and see what God is giving me. God is giving me more sunny days (if not a whole lot warmer!). God is giving me appreciation from my flock. God is giving me God's beloved for whom to care. God is indeed giving, if only we will take time to notice.

The second sentence that stood out to me was, "Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow." Yep, I can get caught up in the, "When will this end? How will we ever be able to worship together safely?" trap. This sentence reminds me that tomorrow is not

promised and so it is best to stay focused on today. Today, we are staying at home. Today, we are learning the new culture of wearing a mask at all times in public. Today, we are loved, unconditionally by God.

I encourage you to think about where God is in the midst of this pandemic. And I also challenge you to find something to focus on — just for today.

Blessings,

Pastor Brooke