

“Around Your Neck”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Two verses in Proverbs 3 jumped out at me recently:
³ Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴ Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. Proverb 3:3-4 (NIV)
“Bind [love and faithfulness] around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.” Hmmmm. Think about this. Solomon is telling us that we can/should take an active role in what hangs around our necks and what is written in/on us.

Think for a few minutes, what is hanging on your neck? Besides a necklace you may have put on this morning, what is there? Is peace there? Is shame draped around your shoulders or bitterness wrapped around you?

Looking deeper into Solomon’s words we see that if we are to actively hang faithfulness and love around our necks, then we are able to put other things there and remove other things from our necks as well.

Notes:

The same goes for the tablets of our hearts. If we can write love and faithfulness there we can write other things there as well.

Is pain or sadness written on the tablet of your heart? I can tell you how to remove it so love and faithfulness can be written there. Apply the blood of Jesus. Jesus carried not just our shortcomings, but also our heartaches, on the cross. Allow God access to the tablet of your heart and he will wipe it clean. Likewise, give any burden that is draped over your neck to God. He wants you to give all your burdens to him. Then grab hold of love and faithfulness and deliberately wear it wherever you go! You will also find that love and faithfulness written on your heart is not painful—it is a joy!

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Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

“Overcoming Worry” (Teaching Sketch)

Matthew 6:25-34



Worry is a churning over and over about a matter thought to be of great importance to the worrier. The Middle East is filled with people who continually hold “worry beads” in their hands as they mull over a problem.

Jesus made it clear worry solved nothing. He said, “Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life [a]?” Worry may cause physical problems which may take more than a few hours off a person’s life but he spoke truth when he said no one could add to their life by worrying.

Do You Worry?

Do you worry? Why, if you worry, do you do it? Has worry ever improved your situation or that of another? Is there peace in worry? Absolutely not. Believers have no reason to worry! Jesus said not to worry about these things in particular:

- do not worry about your



life

- what you will eat or drink
- about your body, what you will wear
- God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

Notes:
[a]
Matt.
6:27

[b]
Deut.
31:6

[c]
Psalm
118:6,7

Those who lack faith are worriers. Jesus said to such as these, “O you of little faith?” Notice this is a statement within a question.

Why Worry

Believers are to be a peculiar people! Let me ask you, would not those around you who have not Christ think you peculiar if you did not worry? Look here at what Jesus said regarding unbelievers. Jesus said, “For the pagans run after all these things....” Believers are not pagans! There may need to be some pagan habits which need to be abandoned once a person accepts Christ, but old things are to be put aside because all things

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture:

Matthew 6:25-34^(NIV)

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life^[a]? ²⁸"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

[a]
Or single cubit to his height



U. S Capitol

(World Hub) The Sojourner And Mrs. Sojourner will be in Washington, DC in the next few days. While there they will be taking part in a Christian History Tour of The U.S. Capitol Building given by David Barton of Wall Builders. They will also take part in "The Pastor's Congressional Briefing." There will be numerous members of Congress briefing them on issues of the day. "We are very much looking forward to this opportunity," said The Sojourner.

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became new when a person accepts Christ.

Worry Defeated

Jesus defeated worry through his covenant with Believers. God has promised he would never leave or forsake his own! Look in Hebrews 13:5-6 where the writer quotes two scriptures in that one place. He quotes:

"Never will I leave you;
"never will I forsake you."^[b]
So we say with confidence,
"The Lord is my helper; I
will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?"^[c]

Jesus defeated death, hell, and the grave and in doing so dramatically proved he would keep his word.

Victory

Jesus demonstrated a great victory in the major issues of mankind's existence. Certainly if he can be trusted for the big things some day, he can be trusted for the little daily things each day. "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." He cares for the Believer's cares. Jesus will take care of each day's troubles and the Believer will live in victory with him here and now!

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

