

7/23/23- SERIES- 'MORE THAN' (#8)

PASTOR LEE

We Are All
Anxious!

Pervasive!

Answer:
Jesus!

Seek God's
Kingdom
First!

Start With
Prayer!

- Pastor Lee highlights sermon theme:....'The Truth About Anxiety That Christians Need To Know'....and recounts his prep including meeting with Pastor Rob/other pastors.....question posed to him: "you don't struggle much with anxiety, do you?"....reflexive reply was "not really". Post-meeting and self-reflecting on his own life pressures ("stacked expectations")...realized answer was actually "Yes"!a feeling that, at times, applies to him and everyone!
- Furthering notion that anxiety is increasing and pervading our society, He refers to our Great Valley Church plant and the local atmosphere: crime up, police-related events snowballing, suicides and an atmosphere of heightened anxiety.
- The good news about anxiety....Jesus is the answer and speaks to it: Math: 6:25- --"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 (ie.raven). 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? He cares about us.....individually!
- What makes you anxious right now???....Let pray that God's sweet presence fall upon each us and that your anxious would be lifted from you by God's Holy Spirit. Pastor Lee prays on this and invites us to join him.
- Continuing.... Math 25: 28- -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 is 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.
- Jesus will minister to you!.....putting all in context and referring to Math 6:24 - - No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. Maybe our anxiousness come from trying to simultaneously juggle our worldly interests (money, jobs, tasks, responsibilities, and other "me" focuses, rather than simply putting Jesus first. Pastor Lee: God says...if you step into MY KINGDOM, I will take care of all this earthy stuff. (big, small, whatever!).
- Repeating :O you of little faith"....We worry about stuff so much that we're not trusting in Him!!!! Pray on everything first! And be thoughtful of our standard of living/luxuries versus those in Jesus' time.....makes this whole point of seeking Him first even more vivid.

God's
Got This!

- *Seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness....inherited.....that which was given to us via Christ's sacrifice at Calvary. Focus not on this earthly kingdom but God's eternal kingdom!!! Jesus came to this earth to suffer and die...so that He could pay the price for our sins. His blood was the payment that redeemed us (sinful humanity) and made us right with God.*
- *We need to trust, therefore, that Jesus' blood has forgiven us of our sins. With that trust, we can stop fretting...lose our anxiousness....see things thru a different lens....*
- *God's got this!*

- *Communion and prayer. (Pastor Lee, in prayer, highlights how today's message is embedded in Communion).*

Key Message:

**Seek First the Kingdom of God and His
righteousness!!!!!!!**