

(Luke 12:23-31, NIV84)

"Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? Consider how the lilies grow.

They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well."

With the plunging stock market in recent weeks and an economy that has been shut down for the most part, business are laying off employees and in some cases closing their doors all together. Add to that the possibility of runaway inflation due to all the stimulus money that is being given out by the government, and the effect is that our nation may be facing a depression. People who once thought their futures were secure might instead suffer financial ruin. To be sure there is a lot of bad and frightening news out there. Such times are a dandy recipe for despair and despondency.

The good news is: God is still in heaven; Jesus is still on His throne. Now, is mine just a Pollyannaish attitude? Am I trying to put a positive spin on an impossibly dire situation? Why no. This is not to suggest that we all shelter ourselves from news we don't want to hear. Rather, despite what is reported in the daily news, let us rest in the absolute assurance that God is still in control. He will never leave us or forsake us, ever.

At peace in Christ with you,
Pastor Golm

April 22

My Father Is in the Father's House

...your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. Luke 12:30

At one time in his life Martin Luther was very depressed, and found it very difficult to conceal his melancholy mood. Soon he noticed that his usually cheerful wife had put on her mourning garments, and had adopted an unaccustomed attitude of somber silence.

When he asked the reason for this sudden change, his pious Katie replied:
"Why, I thought that God had died, the way that you've been acting; and so I thought it proper that I should go in mourning."

How often have we gone about our daily tasks as though there were a funeral wreath on our Father's house above, as though our heavenly Father had died and left us to fend for ourselves as best we could. How often have we plodded along our pilgrim path as though our Father's house were empty, as though there were no living, loving Father there to care for us, guide us, and shield us with his might and mercy.

In days of sorrow and adversity let us remember that "our God is in the heavens", and that with him "nothing shall be impossible". He who gave us the choicest jewel of heaven, his only begotten Son, shall he not also give us those few temporal gifts which he deems necessary to support our earthly life? He who keeps the sun in its course and the stars in their paths, shall he not also find a way for us?

Paul Gerhardt was a man whose life was one tragedy after another. Yet he wrote some of our most beautiful hymns of faith and trust, trust in a heavenly Father and in his Son as his Savior. Listen to his words of faith:

Commit whatever grieves thee
Into the gracious hands
Of Him who never leaves thee,
Who heav'n and earth commands,
Who points the clouds their courses,
Whom winds and waves obey,
He will direct thy footsteps
And find for thee a way.