

ANGER

LESSON 10: RED LETTER BUSINESS

The spiritual life is the life of Christ reproduced in the life of the believer by the power of the Holy Spirit in obedient response to the Word of God.

– DR. HOWARD HENDRICKS

CORPORATE SITUATION ROOM

John is the best mechanic on the shop floor. He has been working at the dealership for 23 years and is considered by management to be their most valuable employee. He is constantly improving and helping team-mates improve. He is a Christian man and takes his family to church every week. Some might say that John is a workaholic. He is always the first one on the floor and the last one to leave. John grew up in poverty and has commented that he will not allow his family to live that way. He has already saved enough to retire on and saves every penny he makes and works all the overtime he is allowed. He has trouble even giving money to the church because he is so driven to save. His kids would say they miss out on things their friends get to do, but what they really want is for their dad to be around.

Management has tried to promote John many times over the years due to his influence on the team, but John refuses. He doesn't want to take on added responsibilities because he's already helping the other guys so much. Meanwhile, he constantly tells management how grateful he is for his job as if he were afraid he might lose it. At home, he spends his little spare time planning for any potential crisis his family might face. Conversations with John always lean toward the problems in the world and how there is never enough to go around. His anxiety has diminished his witness as well. He has never shared his faith at work or anywhere because he doesn't want to offend anyone.

- Q. What are your observations about John?
- Q. What kind of personality does John have?
- Q. In what ways are John's fears holding him back?
- Q. What idols do you think John deals with? What are the dangers in these?
- Q. How would you counsel John to find freedom in Christ?

Worry is serious business. Jesus addresses worry directly because it reveals a distorted picture of who God is and how He feels about us. Worry is an indicator of our level of trust in our Heavenly Father. It can lead to additional issues such as blaming others, victim mentality, anger, and a scarcity

mindset. It is a key tool the enemy uses to render us ineffective for the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus knows us so well! He knows the temptation of worry, so He provides a way out so that we might not fall into the sin of mistrust.

MATTHEW 6:25-34

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 than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look 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? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If 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—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

- Q.** Why does worry blind us to the things of God?
- Q.** What is a person’s view of God when they worry?
- Q.** What does God provide for us to help keep our perspective focused on Him?
- Q.** What kind of person worries according to v32?
- Q.** What does v33 mean in practical, every-day terms?
- Q.** What implications does this passage have concerning planning for tomorrow?

See also Romans 12:17-21