

November 6, 2011
Communion Sunday

Learning To Cast Your Cares Pastor Charles Mendenhall

We are living in a very busy time. There are many different voices that are speaking, wanting our attention but we must come to the place that we only hear the voice of the Lord. Jesus tells us that praise stills the voice of the avenger. Entering into praise from our hearts will still the enemy.

Timothy as a leader and pastor, had been successful but challenged in his church. Persecution and false teachers had come in and led many followers away. This had caused him concern for his people being led into wrong teaching and a falling away from the Lord Jesus.

2 Tim 3:1 *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."* KJV

"Perilous" means treacherous, dangerous and harmful. "Times shall come" goes back to the word for decades. In every decade there is an increase of pressure upon people.

Paul tells us that in the last days, perilous time shall come. As we get closer to the coming of the Lord Jesus, more pressure upon the church corporately and individuals will increase.

2 Tim 3:1 *"**BUT UNDERSTAND** this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear]."* Amp

People are stressed out, they are living in that time. They are being weighed down by the cares and pressures of life. This is part of signs of the end times as we draw closer to the return of the Lord Jesus.

In the following scripture, Jesus warns us that we can get caught up in just doing good things, the pressure of it, and become weighed down by the care of it. It becomes a trap for us. Worry will drain the life of God out of us wearing us out emotionally and physically. We must learn what is important and establish priorities in our lives. If we begin to compromise our priorities, losing our focus on Jesus, letting go of what is important, everything will begin to deteriorate so slowly we are not even aware that it is happening. Jesus is teaching his followers and us what is coming and how to overcome those things that are coming on the earth, there will be a pressure, anxiety, frustrations, worry upon worry and cares.

Luke 21:34-36 *"**34**But take heed to yourselves and be on your guard, lest your hearts be overburdened and depressed (weighed down) with the giddiness and headache and nausea of self-indulgence, drunkenness, and worldly worries and cares pertaining to [the business of] this life, and [lest] that day come upon you suddenly like a trap or a noose; 35For it will come upon all who live upon the face of the entire earth. **36**Keep awake then and watch at all times [be discreet, attentive, and ready], praying that you may have the full strength and ability and be accounted worthy to escape all these things [taken together] that will take place, and to*

stand in the presence of the Son of Man." AMP

Worry is something you will think about all the time. Worry is described as a care, meaning a mental suffering or concern, an anxiety which causes your emotions to be troubled.

Vine's definition of care is "it always draws you in a different direction". Anytime worry comes on us, it draws us away from the provision of Jesus. Allowing care to gripe us pulls us out of the "peace of God" It is supernatural to have peace in the midst of a storm, but this is God's plan.

What will care do on the negative side? Daniel tells us that it "will wear out the saints". Care will weaken our strength, watering it down.

Dan 7:25 *"And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."* KJV

Jesus always taught care from the negative side. The parable of the sower is an example. Four soils in four different kinds of hearts that are found in people then and now, that are hearing the Word of God.

Matt 13:22 *"He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."* KJV

Matt 13:22 *"As for what was sown among thorns, this is he who hears the Word, but the cares of the world and the pleasure and delight and glamour and deceitfulness of riches choke and suffocate the Word, and it yields no fruit."* Amp

Mark 4:19 *"And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful."* KJV

Luke 8:14 *"And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection."* KJV

There is always a reason why the word is unfruitful in a believer's life. Cares or worries will cause the Word of God to be unfruitful, just as much as seed in the natural will be unfruitful during a drought. The word sown in our heart will not work in our lives as Jesus intended it to do because of cares and worries. Immediately when the word is sown in our heart, the devil comes to steal through cares, worries and anxieties where it won't produce a harvest. Cares and worries will choke the word of God out.

Principles in which a believer can respond to cares and worries. Praise blots out the voice of the enemy.

1) **Matt 11:28-29** *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."* KJV

Jesus is the calm in the midst of the storm. He is in us and we are in Him so we can be calm.

Matt 11:28 *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.] 29Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls."* Amp

We must consecrate our lives and be set apart for Jesus, then we can give him something to work with.

2) **1 Peter 5:7** *" Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."* KJV

Cast means a "decisive decision which demands action" Jesus wants us to "saddle" him with our cares. However, we are sometimes thinking that we deserve everything because of our past lives and must carry the cares ourselves. That is not what He intends for us to do. If the cares or worries keep coming back, continue to cast them on Him. Do not pick up those things again.

3) **Phil 4:6** *"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."* KJV

Maintain a grateful heart, with kindness and goodness outwardly. Don't get weighed down with cares and worries. There are different rules for different kinds of prayer.

4) **Luke 10:38-42** *"38Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. 39And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. 40But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. 41And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: 42But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."* KJV

Luke 10:38-42 *"38Now while they were on their way, it occurred that Jesus entered a certain village, and a woman named Martha received and welcomed Him into her house. 39And she had a sister named Mary, who seated herself at the Lord's feet and was listening to His teaching. 40But Martha [overly occupied and too busy] was distracted with much serving; and she came up to Him and said, Lord, is it nothing to You that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me [to lend a hand and do her part along with me]!41But the Lord replied to her by saying, Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; 42There is need of only one or but a few things. Mary has chosen the good portion [that which is to her advantage], which shall not be taken away from her."* Amp

Luke 10:41-42 *"The Master said, "Martha, dear Martha, you're fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it's the main course, and won't be taken from her."* Message

Priorities are an attitude in which something has been denied. The message was lost on Martha, she never heard what Jesus was saying, she was only concerned with the serving, unlike Mary who heard Him and chose the good part, which was not denied to her.