

Devotion, Week of August 17, 2025

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

Well, if you weren't here Sunday to hear my sermon, you missed it. It was from Luke 12 when Jesus tells his disciples two things: not to worry, and to recognize that true treasure is from the heart and God, not in material things. I talked about my propensity to worry, and I apparently preached to the choir, because a number of people afterwards told me they too are worriers. And remarkably, a number of them are or were married to non-worriers, which at times can drive a worrier crazy. One spouse needs to leave at least 20 minutes early to make sure she's on time (and I would contend, as a confirmed worrier, that you need that cushion in case of Atlanta traffic issues), and the other spouse arrives at the last minute or slightly late. One worries a lot about household finances, and the other assumes everything will be all right.

I wonder – why do we worriers marry non-worriers? Maybe a marriage can't tolerate two worriers – I guess you could drive each other crazy with the constant worry and never move on. Jim has never been a worrier. When he gets there, he gets there. Every so often he's missed something important (like our youngest daughter's Senior Project presentation!), but never an airline flight, although the doors have been closing as he stepped on the gangway. If he decides we need to go somewhere exotic or buy some large purchase, like a new house, he tells me that I'm the family banker and I can figure it out. I gnash my teeth and complain about expenses, and quite frankly, generally figure out how to do it. He's the "big idea" person, and if it doesn't work out, which is rare, he just shrugs it off and goes on with his life. He doesn't worry or fret about things. His motto is that "change always creates opportunity." If the change is painful, well, the new opportunity may be even greater. Life is going to be good, and if it involves a risk, he'll take it. So when I get too fretful with my worrying, he'll tell me to stop and let the negativity go.

Our spouses or friends or children who look on the bright side and don't tend to worry help us chronic worriers to settle down, trust in the process, and thank God for the blessings we receive. Thank God for sending us helpers to take our hands when we're wringing them and let us know things will be all right. That's what Jesus would want them to do. It's our job to be grateful for calm encouragers, knowing that we really can turn it over to God. I hope you have a week without too much worry and that you can turn it over if you need to. I will say, however, I'm not going to stop leaving early for a destination, because being late makes me certifiably crazy!

Jeanne