**2023: The Year of Indifference**

**Different: How the Church Lives – Part 11**

**Matthew 6:25-34**

**Teaching:** Worrying is defined as thinking about the future or future events in a way that leaves you feeling anxious and apprehensive. Worrying is giving voice and power to the “What-Ifs.” The “What ifs” can immobilize us causing us to become stuck and frozen instead of experiencing the freedom to move forward and experience the fullness of new opportunities in life because we are unsure of what could happen.

**Read Matthew 6:25-34**

**Teaching:** Jesus reminds us that God created, gives and cares for all His creations. However, humanity is created in the Image of God. We are more valuable and important than all other creations. God will meet our needs.

All of God’s creations, minus humanity, live in a state of indifference. Indifference is not a lack of caring or unconcern about what will happen. But a state of contentment to live into the present be indifferent to what may or may not happen in the future. Indifference means we care about what God wants more than our preferences or desires. (Philippians 4:12)

**Read Luke 1:26-38**

**Teaching:** Mary is just told she’s going to be the mother of God’s son. However, as she hears this news, she doesn’t begin by focusing in on the worries or the “What ifs”? Mary’s response isn’t worry. It’s indifference. Mary’s prayer shows us the way.  “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Luke 1:38

Mary’s response to the angel’s announcement about what would take place in her life was a true prayer of indifference as she expressed a profound readiness to set aside her own personal concerns in order to participate in the will of God as it unfolded in human history.

**Prayer for Indifference**: This begins with an acknowledgement that we do have preferences; but we pray that God will help to release our own desires, controls or wants and seek His way and His way alone.

**Prayer of Indifference**: This is where we are indifferent to anything but the will of God. Even it if brings hardships or difficulties onto ourselves because we know God’s will is good.

*33Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.*

This verse isn’t a promise of prosperity but is focusing on embracing a posture and mindset of indifference. To seek God’s will, first and foremost and trust in God’s providential love and compassion to unfold in God’s mysterious ways.

 **Teaching:** What would it look like for our church to become a church entirely dependent on moving and trusting in God’s will? Nothing more. Nothing less. At COMMUNITY, we know that this next year is a crucial year for decisions to be made in our discernment process.

Are we indifferent to anything but God’s will?

**A Prayer of Abandonment**

Father,
I abandon myself into your hands;
do with me what you will.
Whatever you may do, I thank you;
I am ready for all, I accept all.

Let only your will be done in me,
and in all your creatures—
I wish no more than this, O Lord.
Into your hands I commend my soul:
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,
for I love you, Lord, and so need
to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands
without reserve and with boundless confidence,
for you are my Father.  Amen.

– Charles de Foucauld