

Proper 14 – Year C - August 7, 2022

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Psalms 50:1-8, 23-24 Luke 12:22-31

(Read verses 22-31)

Since reading those verses, Bobby McFerrin's song has been running through my head – "Don't Worry, Be Happy." It's a catchy tune that won a Grammy and may not be too far removed from what Jesus had in mind with his teachings.

Do not worry is a common phrase in our culture. We say it and we hear it – don't worry you will pass your exam, don't worry you will ace your driving test, don't worry everyone will love your retreat, you will give a great quiet day. Sure, you can feed forty people with no trouble. We have faith in you. These are all designed to calm our anxieties and allow us to move forward with the task at hand. But all of them assume that the event or test has involved a certain level of preparation. The proper materials have been studied, menus have been planned and researched, retreats and quiet days have had much preparation and prayer before they are given.

Jesus wants us to know that many of our worries are not only unfounded but can be a waste of time. (Let me read again from verses 22-32).

Jesus is teaching us perspective. Perspective to not spend our time foolishly worrying over what cannot be changed or what really does not matter. He leads us to reset our sights on the important things. To focus our efforts on giving and not on what we can get.

The rewards, the receiving will come to us. But not through dreaming but by preparation. We will receive because we are prepared to meet our Lord. We are called to live lives worthy of His gifts. We are partners with God for the benefits that we have received and will continue to receive.

So maybe "Don't Worry, Be Happy" is not so far from the truth and is more than a catchy tune. There is a lot of truth in the lyrics.

Excerpts from "Don't Worry, Be Happy" by Bobby McFerrin

Here's a little song I wrote
You might want to sing it note for note
Don't worry, be happy
In every life we have some trouble
But when you worry you make it double
Don't worry, be happy
Don't worry, be happy now

Ain't got no place to lay your head
Somebody came and took your bed
Don't worry, be happy
The landlord say your rent is late
He may have to litigate
Don't worry, be happy

Here I give you my phone number, when you worry, call me, I make you happy,
don't worry, be happy

Cause when you worry your face will frown
And that will bring everybody down
So don't worry, be happy

Now there, is this song I wrote
I hope you learned note for note
Like good little children, don't worry, be happy