

Joel 2:21-27:

Forget your fear my beloved land!

Rejoice and be glad, for YAHWEH has done great things.

Forget our fear, you beasts in the field!

The wilderness pastures will once again be carpeted in green, trees will bear fruit again, and the fig and the vine will give you their full yield.

Rejoice, Children of Zion! Rejoice!

Be glad in YAHWEH your God, who sends you rain—the autumn and spring rains as of old—and a new spring crop.

The threshing floors will be heaped with grain, the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that were eaten away by the locust swarm, the winged locust, the scavenger locust, and the bark-stripping locust—my great army, which I sent against you.

You will eat your fill and be satisfied, and praise the name of YAHWEH your God, who has dealt wondrously with you!

My people will never again be put to shame!

You will know that I AM in the midst of Israel, and that I, YAHWEH AM your God, and there is no other.

My people will never again be put to shame!

A reading from Meister Eckhart's "Why So Many Souls?"

"When were you last really happy?

**Let that experience ferment,
bring it to mind once in a while.**

**Surely in the genesis of that past moment, when you danced,
you would not have wanted a constable
to have knocked on your door,
or have said, "You just entered a restricted ground."**

**Why are there so many stars and souls,
With no end in sight for them?**

**Because nothing can interrupt God
when God is having fun, creating!"**

The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 6:24-35:

Jesus said,

No one can serve two superiors.

You will either hate one and love the other, or be attentive to one and despise the other.

You cannot give yourself to God and Money.

That's why I tell you not to worry about your livelihood, what you are to eat or drink or use for clothing.

Isn't life more than just food?

Isn't the body more than just clothes?

"Look at the birds in the sky.

They don't sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet our God in heaven feeds them.

Aren't you more important than they?

Which of you by worrying can add a moment to your lifespan?

And why be anxious about clothing?

Learn a lesson from the way the wildflowers grow.

They don't work; they don't spin.

Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in full splendor was arrayed like one of these.

If God can clothe in such splendor the grasses of the field, which bloom today and are thrown on the fire tomorrow, won't God do so much more for you—you who have so little faith?

Stop worrying, then, over questions such as, 'What are we to eat,' or 'what are we to drink,' or 'what are we to wear?'

Those without faith are always running after these things.

God knows everything you need.

Seek first God's reign, and God's justice, and all these things will be given to you besides.

Enough of worrying about tomorrow!

Let tomorrow take care of itself.

Today has troubles enough of its own