

From the October 4, 2009 Issue

## Jesus Said, "Do Not Worry"

But did Jesus live through what former Federal Reserve Chair, Alan Greenspan called, "a once in a century credit tsunami?"

Did Jesus live through a period of time wherein a county court in Florida records home foreclosures at the rate of one every fifteen minutes?

Okay, I've quoted from the "Kingdom" in my title, now let me quote from the "street" my direct answer: "How in hell can we *not* worry in a time like this?" The answer is, "There is no way in 'hell' we can."

You see, what readers of *The Adopted Life* have come to see is that in "hell," what I will call our existence when we're not living face to face with Jesus, we can't help but worry, because worry is one of the default features of what Paul called "fruits of the flesh," our fallen human nature.

I came to realize this in a very simple, unplanned, serendipitous way this past Friday. Given the three-day Labor Day weekend I had, I added a vacation day and spent some time face to face with Jesus. By that I mean I simply had more time to spend in prayer (while walking on my treadmill), and time perusing the various wonderful Trinitarian blogs that have been added to the Adopted Life site.

After an hour on the treadmill I did my usual "unwind" by laying on the floor of my bedroom to cool down before taking a shower. It wasn't until 10:15 that the thought struck me: 'I can't believe that I haven't checked the markets to see how my portfolio is doing.' It struck me as somewhat revelational that it never even occurred to me to think about it.

You see, that is typically my daily routine...at work, which is part of my profession, keeping an eye on the "markets"...I usually am very preoccupied with 9:30 a.m. when the Dow opens, and hence I can see how my investments are doing. That may sound odd to you, but for me it was SUPREMELY odd. You see, I've let the value of my portfolio, with its ebbs and flows, determine whether it's a "good" day or a "bad" one.

That momentary experience for me, Friday morning, was what some call "epiphanal." As I meditated on it, I came to realize that one of our default human needs is that of security. Unfortunately, we too often place our security in things other than in our relationship with the One, the Triune God, who in his self-revelation of His Son, indicated that all security comes from Him.

You see, that morning, when I was literally bathed in the face to face presence of Jesus, I had no other thoughts than His relationship with me. All my usual worries were non-existent, so much so that my daily habits had no power over that relationship.

Maybe you also see that when we aren't engaged in that face to face relationship with Jesus, we tend to default to our natural human tendencies and the fruits they bear. It's nothing that I did; it's simply what He did. He filled me with His presence, and in His presence, just as Peter witnessed as he walked on water, staring into that face, all security, hope, and joy was fully present. It's only when Peter took his eyes off of Jesus, which unfortunately I tend to do when I let the day to daily grind take me from that face to face relationship with Him, that the waves begin to overwhelm.

In that serendipitous moment, I came to see a glimpse of his face and the "how" to that directive of Jesus, long, long ago. How do we not worry, in times like these? We allow Jesus to keep our eyes on Him in ongoing relationship. When we're engaged in face to face relationship with Jesus, we tend to rely on His words and the knowledge that He will take care of everything, markets and times like these notwithstanding.

To our street friends that ask the question, "How in hell can we...?" Our response is: "We can't." How in Jesus, can we? That's a simple one, my friends. With apologies to our friends who may not have experienced the personal reconciliation that all humans have universally, and to our former Fed Chair...in the eyes of Jesus we find no worry. In His eyes we find no fear, because in His eyes we see nothing but His love, and perfect love casts out all fear, and all worry...yes, even in times like these. Glory be to the Triune One, who holds us in His hands, despite the economic times around us.

*~ Craig Kuhlman*