

First Day Home

The trip home went well, but took a long time. From departing the hotel in Beijing to arriving at home west of Denver about 24.5 hours passed. That includes ground transportation and waiting.

I had eaten well in China and was about 5 pounds (more than 2 kg) heavier than normal when I returned home. I was not concerned. With vigorous exercise in the future park that I am managing I was a half pound lighter than normal by Tuesday morning. I had spent the mornings mowing weeds, some about 1.5 meters high. On Monday and Tuesday I was clearing gravel roadway loops. That will finish on Wednesday but then I will be mowing weeds in the areas within the loops. Here is a photo of the lawnmower in tall weeds. The other is a cleared roadway.



Do Not Worry

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life^a?”

²⁸“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

不要忧虑

²⁵“所以我告诉你们：不要为生命忧虑吃什么，喝什么；为身体忧虑穿什么。生命胜于饮食吗？身体胜于衣裳吗？²⁶你们看那天上的飞鸟，也不种，也不收，也不积蓄在仓里，你们的天父尚且养活它。你们不比飞鸟贵重得多吗？²⁷你们哪一个能用思虑使寿数多加一刻呢（注：或作“使身量多加一肘呢”）？”

²⁸“何必为衣裳忧虑呢？你想，野地里的百合花怎么长起来？它也不劳苦，也不纺线。²⁹然而我告诉你们：就是所罗门极荣华的时候，他所穿戴的还不如这花一朵呢！³⁰你们这小信的人哪！野地里的草今天还在，明天就丢在炉里，神还给它这样的妆饰，何况你们呢！³¹所以，不要忧虑说：‘吃什么？喝什么？穿什么？’³²这都是外邦人所求的。你们需用的这一切东西，你们的天父是知道的。³³你们要先求他的国和他的义，这些东西都要加给你们了。³⁴所以，不要为明天忧虑，因为明天自有明天的忧虑；一天的难处一天当就够了。

During the last full day in Tianjin I was showing this quotation from the hero of our favorite book to my new Chinese friend, just before giving her the special gift. This translation differs from the one we read, but the meaning is the same. (Mt. 5: 25-34) This is one of my favorite passages. The sentence labeled 33 has been my guide for life since I was a teenager. It has indeed worked out as promised, and with even more “things”.



Last Saturday in Beijing an artist offered some of his work to us teachers. I liked this scroll and brought it home. It is now hanging in our living room. The quote is from sentence 26 in the above reading. Since the entire passage also mentions the flowers, here are some birds and flowers from the property I am managing.



Wood Duck (male, local)

Mandarin Duck (male, from eastern China, but near my home 29 May 2012.)

The flowers were all photographed Monday.



Sunflower



Prickly Poppy

So I enjoy working in this field with its birds and flowers. More are illustrated on my web site at www.EdHolroyd.info/Prospect.

Ed Holroyd, 7 August 1012



Alfalfa



Silvery Lupine