

Matthew 6:25-34

- **REVIEW...**

- o The Sermon of the King...
 - The LONGEST public teaching recorded in the New Testament - **Matthew 5-7**
 - Teaching disciples – those who want to learn – how to be CITIZENS of the KINGDOM of God!
- o Poor in Spirit...
 - Beginning with the Beatitudes – Jesus established we are POOR in Spirit...
 - Because in order to be GOOD – we would have to keep every JOT and TITTLE of the LAW...
 - Jesus took FIVE laws [out of 613] – to prove we are NOT good – we are NOT perfect...
 - And knowing that is what allows us to be a Citizen of the Kingdom – because it drives us to Jesus!
- o Relationship with God
 - Jesus went on to define how to LIVE as a CITIZEN – how to RELATE to God in SIX ways...
 - FIRST - we are to GIVE in secret – because it shows a heart for God...
 - SECOND – we are not to PRAY in secret – talking to God – not to be seen by men...
 - THIRD – we must FORGIVE everyone – everything – every time – just as we were forgiven...
 - FOURTH – we are to FAST in secret – denying the physical so we can strengthen the spiritual...
 - FIFTH – we are to store up our treasures in HEAVEN – so we have a HEART for God...
 - Because we cannot serve TWO masters – we have to CHOSE – God or Money!

- **1ST – DO NOT WORRY... vs. 25-30**

- o 1st – Meaning of Life... vs. 25
 - Serving God...
 - Since we should store up our TREASURES in HEAVEN [not on earth]
 - Because where we put our TREASURE – is where our HEART will follow...
 - And where our HEART is – God or Money - that is who we CHOSE to serve...
 - The next obvious question becomes – what do we do about the things we NEED!
 - It sounds nice to say let us put all our TREASURES in Jesus...
 - Read our Bible – Pray – and spend all day in Church – but how will we afford to LIVE!
 - This seems to be a reasonable argument – we justify we have to be WISE...
 - We need to make sure we have enough MONEY to take care of our NEEDS!
 - Physical needs...
 - Therefore I say to you - do not worry about your life.
 - What you will eat or what you will drink. Nor about your body - what you will put on!
 - Jesus says the OPPOSITE – He commands us [imperative] - do NOT worry...
 - WORRY [μεριμνάω] – 6x in this passage – to be anxious when we think about the FUTURE...
 - We are NOT to worry about what we might [subjunctive] EAT – DRINK – or WEAR!
 - Yet If we honest with – this is exactly what we WORRY about – a LOT...
 - How many hours of sleep have we lost WORRYING about how to feed our families...
 - How many fights have we gotten into over NOT having enough money!
 - The problem is we do CANNOT see what will happen tomorrow...
 - The best we have is to GUESS what MIGHT take place – what if...
 - And we tend to think of the WORST possible outcome – which causes us to WORRY!
 - More than food...
 - Life is more than food and the body more than clothing!
 - This may read like a question – but it is NOT – it is a statement [indicative]
 - The MEANING of life cannot be found in – FOOD or CLOTHING...
 - The problem with WORRYING about what we need PHYSICALLY...

- Is we end up LIVING for things that do not matter SPIRITUALLY...
 - We put our TREASURES in the WRONG place – and our HEART wanders from God!
 - A man came to Jesus and demanded he tell his brother to share his inheritance...
 - Jesus responded by giving the PARABLE of the RICH fool – **Luke 12:16-20**
 - A man had such a great harvest – he did not know what to do with all his CROPS...
 - He decided to build bigger and better BARNS - then he would enjoy the EASY life...
 - But the Lord called him a FOOL – for that night he would DIE...
 - Then what would happen with all his MONEY – what would happen to him!
 - **Ecclesiastes 5:15** - “People who live only for wealth come to the end of their lives as naked and empty handed as on the day they were born.”
 - When we were BORN we had nothing - when we DIE we will leave with nothing...
 - So all even if we had ALL the possessions – ALL the money in the world - it does not last...
 - We can WASTE our life chasing these things - or choose to be CONTENT – **Hebrews 13:5**
 - Because the meaning of in life is not how much we OWN – it is KNOWING Jesus!
 - **Luke 12:15** – “Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”
- o 2nd – The Birds... vs. 26
- Three Examples...
 - To emphasize WHY we do NOT need to WORRY about what we NEED...
 - Jesus went on to give THREE examples of how God PROVIDES!
 - Jesus used EXAMPLES from familiar things that were all around the DISCIPLES...
 - As they were there on the HILL [Mount of Beatitudes] – most likely in the SPRINGTIME...
 - They were surrounded by BIRDS – MEN of different ages – and FLOWERS!
 - Ravens...
 - Look at the birds of the air - for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns.
 - Yet your heavenly Father feeds them!
 - FIRST – Jesus commanded [imperative] the DISCIPLES to look at the BIRDS of the air...
 - They did not have to WORRY about their FOOD...
 - They did NOT sow seeds – so they could harvest enough FOOD...
 - Yet they did not STARVE – because our Father in Heaven FEEDS [present] them!
 - More Valuable...
 - Are you not of more value than they!
 - In the parallel account in Luke – Jesus calls the birds – RAVENS – **Luke 12:24**
 - Ravens are unclean to the Jews – a forbidden bird – **Leviticus 11:13-15**
 - Meaning Jews did not have care if a RAVEN lived or died!
 - The equivalent for us might be RATS - creatures we rather see dead than alive...
 - My guess is none of us have ever gone to bed worried about the poor RATS...
 - We do NOT lie in bed wondering if the little RATS had enough food to eat today!
 - Yet God does care - He looks after something we despise - could care less about...
 - And if God makes sure the RATS [birds] have enough to eat - if He cares for them...
 - How much more will He make sure His CHILDREN have food to eat...
 - God gives His CHILDREN the amazing promise - we never have to worry about food!
 - **Psalms 37:25** - “I have never seen the godly forsaken - or their children begging for bread.”
- o 3rd – Long Life... vs. 27
- Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?
 - SECOND – Jesus looking at the DISCIPLES gathered around Him – old and young...
 - And asked WHO had the POWER [δύναμις] - to add one DAY [cubit] to his LIFE [stature]
 - If they worried about WHEN they would DIE – would it make them LIVE longer!
 - If someone wanted to test our STRENGTH – and asked how much we could LIFT...

- And we could not pick up 100 kilos – would we then try and lift 1000 kilos...
- If we are unable to do something EASY – why would we try doing something HARDER!
- We WORRY and tress about the future as if we have POWER [δύναμαι] over what happens...
- Yet we do NOT even have the POWER [δύναμαι] to add ONE day to our lives...
- In fact more than likely all our WORRYING takes days away from our lives...
- Stress comes when we try to control something that is beyond our control - the FUTURE...
- But God know the FUTURE - and He has POWER [δύναμαι] over all things...
- If we LOOK to Jesus - TRUST in Him – then there is no reason to WORRY!
- o 4th – The Flowers... vs. 28-30
 - Better than Solomon... vs. 28-29
 - So why do you worry about clothing?
 - Consider the lilies of the field - how they grow: they neither toil nor spin.
 - And yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these!
 - THIRD – Jesus told the DISCIPLES to think about the FLOWERS [lilies]
 - They grow [present] – but they do not get exhausted [κοπιάω]
 - Yet Jesus said [indicative] – and He would KNOW since He is God...
 - That even SOLOMON – the richest man in the Bible – with all his WEALTH...
 - Was not dressed as beautifully as a simple FLOWER!
 - We will never see a flower having to STYLE its pedals - try on the latest fashions...
 - We will never see a flower spending hours in front of the mirror - getting ready...
 - Yet when we think of beauty – there is no higher standard than a simple FLOWER...
 - Though their BEAUTY only lasts for a short time – FLOWERS wilt fast!
 - Little Faith... vs. 30
 - If God so clothes the grass of the field - which today is and tomorrow is thrown into the oven.
 - Will He not much more clothe you - O you of little faith?
 - If God gives such BEAUTY – to something that only lasts for a day...
 - How much MORE will He make sure His KIDS also have what they NEED...
 - You of little FAITH [ὀλιγόπιστος] – to have SMALL faith!
 - **Romans 12:3** – “God has dealt to each one a measure of FAITH.”
 - We all have FAITH – but we might wonder if are FAITH is SMALL...
 - But Jesus would clarify when the disciples asked Him to INCREASE our FAITH!
 - **Luke 17:6** – “If you have faith as a mustard seed...”
 - I could have FAITH – that I could win an Olympic Gold medal...
 - But that does NOT mean I will win – because my FAITH is misplaced!
 - FAITH is not about QUANTITY or QUALITY – it is about WHO we put our TRUST in...
 - If we put our FAITH in something that does NOT have the POWER - it does NOT work...
 - But if we put our FAITH in Jesus – then we NEVER have to WORRY!
- 2ND – SEEK FIRST... vs. 31-34
 - o 1st – Do Not Worry... vs. 31
 - Therefore do not worry – saying:
 - What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear?
 - THEREFORE - in light of the THREE examples: BIRDS – AGE – and FLOWERS...
 - We should NOT worry [subjunctive] – about the things we NEED [food and clothing]
 - But this is NOT a command – it is a question – but WHY would we WORRY!
 - I knew a Pastor who was lacking money to PAY his bills – he had a NEED....
 - He prayed – and God told him He would PROVIDE – but he was still WORRIED...
 - The next day the pastor got a call from a friend – it was on his heart to send some money...
 - He began to dance around the house – God had PROVIDED...

- But the Lord spoke to his heart – asking what if his friend did NOT send the money...
- The Pastor told the Lord his friend was FAITHFUL – he would do what he said...
- So God asked – is your friend more faithful than Me...
- When God told the Pastor He would provide – he did NOT dance!
- **WORRY is the opposite of TRUST – we WORRY because we are not TRUSTING God...**
- **Instead of worrying we should put our FAITH in the Lord...**
- **Because when we put our FAITH in Jesus – ALL of our WORRIES disappear...**
- **Our perspective changes - we see our circumstances in a new light...**
- **We no longer see what we NEED - instead our God who lacks for NOTHING!**
- **Philippians 4:6 – “Do not worry about anything. Instead pray about everything.” [NLT]**
- o 2nd – God Knows... vs. 32
 - World worries...
 - After all these things the Gentiles seek!
 - Those who do NOT know Jesus – unbelievers [ἔθνος]
 - WORRY constantly [present] about ALL [πᾶς] these: seeking FOOD – CLOTHES – MONEY...
 - Because the promise to PROVIDE is not for just anyone - it is only DISCIPLES!
 - We would do anything to make sure our KIDS have everything they NEED...
 - But we are NOT willing to make the same sacrifices for the KIDS of others!
 - In the same way God promises to take care of His KIDS - those who believe in Jesus...
 - God does NOT make the same promise to those who belong to this world!
 - Heavenly Father...
 - For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things!
 - For His KIDS – there is NOT reason to WORRY...
 - Our Father KNEW [perfect] ALL [πᾶς] we NEEDED – before we even asked...
 - But there is a BIG difference between NEED and WANT...
 - We all have a LOT of WANTS in life – but the question is do we NEED it!
 - If Hallel came to me the other day and needed money for her Black Belt exam – NEED...
 - But after she also asked if she could go to DAIRY queen – WANT...
 - One was given – the other was NOT – because NOT everything she WANTS is good for her!
 - Apparently - the ONLY things God says we NEED – are food and clothing...
 - Pretty much everything else in life appears to fall into the WANT category!
- o 3rd – God Provides... vs. 33
 - Conditional...
 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness!
 - In CONTRAST to what those in the world SEEK after [food – clothes – money]
 - We are commanded [imperative] to SEEK [present] – the Kingdom of God FIRST [πρῶτον]
 - That does not mean we IGNORE everything else – it is about PRIORITIES...
 - We do not put stuff of this life FIRST – we put the RIGHTLESSNESS of God FIRST...
 - Because the things of this life do not LAST – but the things of heaven never fade away!
 - Forget the past...
 - HOW to SEEK Jesus - by letting go of the PAST!
 - **Philippians 3:13-14 – “One thing I do - forgetting those things which are ... I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”**
 - Too often in our Christian walk we hold onto our PAST - our mistakes and failures...
 - But in Jesus the PAST is forgotten – whether the past is TEN years ago or TEN minutes...
 - And if we are focused on our PAST - then we are not SEEKING Jesus!
 - Sit down...

- How to SEEK Jesus – by spending time with Him!
- **Luke 10:41** - “Martha you are WORRIED... about many things. But one thing is needed!”
- How many times have we been there – not enough TIME – not enough MONEY...
- WORRIED about MANY things - rushing around – busy – no time to spare...
- We need to remember only ONE thing is NEEDED – sit at Jesus feet...
- ONLY when we put Jesus FIRST – will everything else fall into place!
- Abide...
 - How to SEEK Jesus – by ABIDING in Him!
 - **John 15:4-5** – “As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself - unless it abides in the vine. Neither can you - unless you abide in Me.”
 - If you plug a light into DIRT – NOTHING happens – it has no POWER!
 - In the same way we often try and PLUG our lives into the world...
 - Then we wonder why we have NO power – why we are always WORRIED...
 - It is only when we PLUG into Jesus – put Him FIRST – the LIGHTS come on!
- Provision...
 - And all these things shall be added to you!
 - When we put Jesus FIRST: forget the PAST – SIT at His feet – ABIDE in Him...
 - Then ALL [παᾶς] of things we NEED will be [passive] GIVEN [indicative] to us...
 - Not that this is EASY – it is SCARY to TRUST that God will PROVIDE...
 - But Jesus would go on to encourage His DISCIPLES!
 - **Luke 12:32** – “Do not fear little flock – because it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”
 - Notice what our Father want to give us – not just what we NEED...
 - He wants to give us the WHOLE kingdom - bless us beyond imagination...
 - The only reason He would NOT give us something - is He knows it is NOT good for us...
 - Since He desires to give us EVERYTHING - what do we have to WORRY about!
- o 4th – Not Tomorrow... vs. 34
 - Therefore do not worry about tomorrow - for tomorrow will worry about its own things.
 - Sufficient for the day is its own trouble!
 - THEREFORE - in light of our Father KNOWING what we NEED...
 - And PROMISING to provide everything we NEED – as we SEEK Him FIRST...
 - We should NOT [subjunctive] WORRY about tomorrow [the future]
 - Tomorrow will worry about itself – it is enough for us to TRUST God for what we need TODAY!
 - Too often we ask the WRONG question - is God going to provide for TOMORROW...
 - We get ahead of God - and that gets us WORRIED - stressed...
 - The RIGHT question is - do we lack anything right NOW...
 - Not what do we need a YEAR from now – or MONTH – or FIVE minutes from now...
 - God has been FAITHFUL to provide everything we need for this very MOMENT...
 - And He will continue to be faithful - taking care of every NEED!