

MATTHEW 6:25 – 34

YOUR LIFE IS WORTH SO MUCH MORE!!

The investment banker with the Mercedes, a Rolex and a missing arm...

Last week we looked at the passage where Jesus was talking about materialism.

He keyed in on three main points. The first was that where your heart is, your treasure is also. The second was on a single-minded focus and vision towards the Kingdom of God. The third was that of choosing whether your master would be God or materialism.

This next section only makes sense and only works for the true believer that puts his heart/ treasure and his focus on the only master that can provide him with entrance into the kingdom; God.

So, for the person who has shunned materialism, is singly focused on the kingdom, has chosen to follow God, the balance of chapter six is both a comfort and a command.

Mat. 6: 25-34

25 "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. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now 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?

31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first

the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

The first word in verse 25 is, “therefore.” When we see that word we have to ask ourselves, “What is it there for?” The word connects two different passages with a single theme in mind. Sometimes you can substitute, “because” in the place of, “therefore.” These verses can be hard to stomach if they aren’t connected to the verses before them. By not connecting them in this way we are lifting them from their context. That is never a good thing. Let’s look at verse 25 once again.

25 “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. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?”

Once again, this only works for the believer. As followers of Jesus, we are the apple of His eye, the magnum opus of His creation, as we will see in more detail shortly. But because of this fact, if we are focused on God and His kingdom; if we are sold out for Him, recognizing Him as our master, then we can go through life without these things being our main focus. And that is what is at stake here. This doesn’t mean we are to just lie back, smelling the roses all day without a care in the world. But we are to be so focused on His kingdom that these things; food, clothing, cars, houses and the like, are not to be our goal in this life.

We have all seen people who were all about climbing the corporate ladder and obtaining social status through their possessions. While those people seem to have it all and be the happiest among us, in actuality they aren’t. They have created a monster they have to constantly feed and maintain.

The multi-millionaire, Ross Perot said it this way.

“Guys, just remember, if you go out and get real lucky, if you make a lot of money, if you go out and buy a lot of stuff – it’s gonna break. You got your biggest, fanciest mansion in the world. It has air – conditioning. It’s got a pool. Just think of all the pumps that are that ate going to go out. Or go to a yacht basin any place in the world. Nobody is smiling, and I’ll tell you why. Something broke that morning. The generator’s out; the microwave oven doesn’t work... Things just don’t mean happiness.

The more you have, the more about which you have to worry.

But we tend to think this just applies to the wealthiest among us. But that isn't so. To the guy making \$50,000.00, the guy making \$100,000.00 should be happy. But to the guy eking out a living working in the fast-food industry, the guy making \$50K should be happy. We all tend to think that if we made a little more, we would be satisfied. But that just isn't so. How many of you have ever gotten raise? How many of those people now have enough or plenty of money? None. We tend to spend what we have. We never seem to get to the point where we have "extra money." There is always something or someone there with their hand out ready to collect it from you.

(Jack Stack and the beta tapes)

Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

All human life has innate value. We cannot put a dollar value on our lives. We have been purchased at the highest price that can be paid... the life of Jesus. We have been bought and paid for by God, with the life of Christ – the God – man. Therefore our lives are worth the life of Jesus. So I ask you, are our lives not worth more than these things? Is that all there is to our lives? Not for the believer.

*26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?
27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?*

Look at the birds. They are well fed. God feeds them. God designed the whole ecosystem so that they have what they need. If you observe birds and squirrels, etc., you will see that they are busy. They don't just lie around in the trees and wait for God to drop food to them. They are busy about their business. But they aren't worried about it. Can you see the difference? And this is the point Jesus is making. They are busy, but they aren't fretting. And they aren't trying to build the biggest nest in the forest. They get and store food and bring it back to their babies. But they are sitting on a limb working themselves into a tizzy. Even they realize that there is more to life than those things.

AND OUR LIVES ARE WORTH MORE THAN THEIRS!

There is a reason Adam and Eve were the last of creation. They were placed into a turnkey environment. Do you know why? Because everything was created for them! Jesus didn't come and die for the birds, squirrels or any other creature. HE

paid the ransom for us, humanity! I know it isn't politically correct to say that but it is true.

So why do we worry? Or more importantly, why do we worry about these things when they are provided for us by our Heavenly Father?

Important: Jesus doesn't say we aren't to worry about other people's food, health, clothing, etc. We aren't to worry about our own. This comes on the heels of a model prayer where Jesus teaches us to ask for our *daily* bread. Yet He also tells us that man doesn't live by bread alone! Too many of us are killing ourselves trying to live on bread alone!

Does worry, (especially about these things) add to our height or to the longevity of our lives? NO! In fact it is a scientific fact that worry shaves years off of our lives. So why do it when we our Father has provided for us?

Do your children come up and express concern about the power bill coming due?

28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now 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?

31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Once again, Jesus reiterates how we are valued above the rest of creation. And then in the last portion of verse 30, He chides us for being caught up in materialism, saying we have "little faith." And that is exactly what most worry is: lack of faith.

If we accept that we are the pinnacle of creation and that we really have a heavenly Father up there looking out for us, and if we are sold out to Him, singly focused, realizing that where our treasure is, our hearts are also, then we have no need to be anxious over these things.

It is an insult, a slap in the face of God worry/ be paralyzed with anxiety about our basic provisions! Why such strong language? Because He told us that He will provide! Either He will or He is a liar and God cannot lie!

31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Therefore!!! Because of this, do not worry about food, drink or clothing!

(Operation Christmas Child vs. American standards)

32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek.

If we fall into the trap of materialism, we are categorized with the Gentiles, the heathen! They don't believe. Their lives are for the most part centered on worldly things. This isn't so for us.

For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

God knows we need these things to survive. He addressed food in the Garden. He briefed Noah on his diet as soon as he got off the ark. God knows we need to eat and knows we don't need to be running around naked! He even made clothes for Adam and Eve.

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

This is the conditional part of this. *seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

Jesus is speaking to believers. As believers, we are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. This is to be our first priority. This comes before earthly relationships; even our spouses and children. This doesn't mean we are to neglect these relationships. In fact it means just the opposite. A man who is focused on God's kingdom and the righteousness of God will be the best husband and father. The same goes for the mother and wife. But this peace and sustenance comes From God to the one seeking Him as his/ her top priority! Not the one that places God somewhere down the list. Not to the one that is playing

church. Not to the one who isn't willing to pay the price of being an enemy to the world and all its promises.

But if you are a worrier by nature, Jesus has something more to say to you.

34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

We can't change the past. And worrying about the future won't help either. If you want to worry, there is enough to worry about concerning today's needs. Focus on that. Again, this is why we are told to pray for our DAILY bread and not next week's or next year's bread. Deal with today, today. Deal with tomorrow, tomorrow.

We weren't placed on this planet to accumulate stuff. We weren't placed here to build our own kingdoms. There is always someone else who is worse off than you. Don't fall into the trap of materialism.

(The rich man and his therapist)

Will you re-prioritize your life?

Will you focus on God?

Will you put your treasure and your heart where it should be as a child and servant of God? Think first.

You will be going against the flow of humanity.

Will you seek first God's kingdom and the righteousness He has provided for us in Christ?

It's not easy. But it is what is required of us by our master, the one who bought us at the most exorbitant price the universe has ever known.

Will you commit to this?

