

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Do Not Worry

Matthew 6:22-34

Previously:

- Jesus left the crowds from the healings
- Those who followed him up the mountain got to hear the **Sermon on the Mount**
- A lot to cover. Could take a lifetime. Trying to do it reasonable justice.
- **Jesus says hard things: It's not condemnation, it's revelation.**
- Giving, fasting, praying. In secret. The one who sees in secret will openly rewards
- **Treasures in heaven**

Today:

- The lamp of the body
- God & Riches
- Worry

Before we get into it all

What are you worrying about? What has your attention now?

Work?

Finances?

Family?

The election?

Websters...worry

to afflict with mental distress or agitation : make anxious

to harass by tearing, biting, or snapping especially at the throat

to shake or pull at with the teeth

a terrier worrying a rat

to touch or disturb something repeatedly

to change the position of or adjust by repeated pushing or hauling

to assail with rough or aggressive attack or treatment : **torment**

to subject to persistent or nagging attention or effort

Worry and fear are related - we worry because something we fear could happen

Anxiety in our day and age

Anxiety attacks, PTSD

People worry about a lot - things that don't even really matter "does this make me look fat?"

Worry tends to be revealed when the things we put our trust in go away, or get weak

Job security, stock market, trust in a relationship

Things outside of our control

1 John 4:18 NKJV - There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV - For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

**Remember they key to prayer? Relationship.
The key to dealing with worry is...relationship**

[Pray]

6:22-23

The lamp of the body is the eye

Lamp, flashlight - needed at night!
Kids and chickens

I love flashlights. The phone in a pinch, Bedside, truck, on my tools, on my guns. Need to get it again, but had red lights in my old truck for night, red flashlight

Believe it or not, seeing where you're going is super helpful!

**Jesus is saying our eyes our our lamps
It's not what's shining out. It's what's shining in.**

Windows...the saga for curtains

What we let in, what we look at, what we "behold" affects our entire lives.

Eyes are the windows of the soul

Cold eyes or a bright smile
Sunglasses outside vs. inside

Proverbs 4:23 NKJV - Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it [spring] the issues of life.

*The things that go in through our eyes (and ears) ultimately makes it into your heart
There are things I've seen that I can't unsee. Good and bad.*

*The internet - feeding the modern world perversion, lies, truth, information
A great freedom - at a great cost - and one day, as it kills books, whoever controls it will control all knowledge*

Jesus is saying our eye can be good or bad by what it's letting in

Lens filters - colors, polarization/ND

If the things you look at are good, the things you accept, the things bouncing around inside you will be light

If the things you want to look at are bad...then you will be full of darkness

The eyes tell a story

Teachings. Truths

Vs. false teachings, lies

It matters what we spend our time doing. Thinking about. Watching. Taking in. It affects you.

Advertising, "influencers", movies, "news", podcasts, friends, books - don't think it doesn't affect you. It does. Especially if we're passive in our consumption.

I could go on all day about this.

Two people can see the same exact thing and believe two distinctly different things about it we live in two realities in our country right now for this very reason

Is our lens a biblical worldview or not?

The key is if our eye is bad.

(murderers commit murder because they were already murderers in heart)

Matthew 18:9 NKJV - "And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast [it] from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire."

Jesus says the light that is in you will be darkness

Very scary! There are people that think they have found enlightenment, truth, freedom - but it's the very opposite.

Jesus says "I am the way, the truth and the life"

"So be careful little eyes what you see"

:24

Two masters

My boss left, took another job - having a new boss at work. Trying to make sure I don't have to

report to two people.

“You can’t make everybody happy” - trying to please 5 kids at dinner time

Jesus is straightforward - you will hate one and love the other

No no, i can love both - eventually you’ll grow to love one and hate the other

Can’t be constantly pulled in two directions

Jesus isn’t talking about work - he’s talking about a relationship with our heavenly Father

If we’re trying to serve God and also trying to get rich - only one is going to win out

The concern here is that with our flesh, it’s not going to be God who wins out in our hearts

Mammon - treasure, riches “confidence: wealth personified”

Scrooge McDuck

1 Timothy 6:3-10 NKJV - If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, [even] the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a [means of] gain. From such withdraw yourself. Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all [kinds of] evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Godliness is not a path to worldly riches - although God may bless you, no matter what the TV preacher says, you’re not supposed to be rich - but you can be wise with money

Strayed from the faith in their greediness

How sad! Got rich in the world leaving heaven’s riches behind

Just learned about storing up treasures in heaven

Abraham, Joseph, Job, David, Solomon many others - rich beyond our imaginations!

But it wasn’t their pursuit. God was.

Rich young ruler

Mark 10:21-22 NKJV - Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing

you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Jesus was speaking to this man directly. His power and wealth were related. He recognized his need for spiritual "inheritance" and investment Hi wealth stood between him and heaven.

It's not a command to us all - but a warning if it's standing in the way of us following Jesus, no matter what it is, it has to go.

Luke 12:16-21 NKJV - Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. "And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' "So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, [and] be merry." ' "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "So [is] he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

In a sense, God doesn't care how much money you have - you can be rich and poor and follow him - he just cares if you're going to heaven or not

False vanity in being "poor" or not wise with money. Not a good look, either. God provides, and many times God provides in us being wise, good stewards of what he has given us. Driving a beat up car, not taking care of our things, being careless with money is not a sign of spiritual significance either.

Luke 16:11 NKJV - "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true [riches]?"

We can only have one master. It's either God or the enemy. It's either God or us. It's either God or money.

Don't squander heaven's gold for earthly paper.

Again, the relationship - who do we trust to take care of our needs? Our 401k or God? God may use the 401k but where is our trust, because the present financial system may not be around by the time you try to cash it out.

:25-30

Therefore...ask what is it there for!?

Because of all Jesus has been saying - God sees. God knows. God provides.

Jesus says “Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?”

Isn't that most of our culture? Going out to eat? Eating something new. Listening to something new. Buying something new to wear physically, some new outfit or smart watch or trendy way of thinking.

Consumer culture. Capitalism is not bad, very Biblical in how to work and eat. “If you don't work, you don't eat.” But, worshiping wealth, worshiping the getting, living for it, is not.

East Coast, West Coast - Live to work.

Montana - Work to live.

Isn't your life more than filling your belly? Your body more than a clothes hanger?

There's so much more to do, even in the practical world. Go on vacation. Have a laugh. Spend time with loved ones.

This isn't a diatribe against dinner dates. Going out to eat is a great way to do that. Jesus loves eating with the disciples.

But the point is worry. Do we not always worry about food and clothes?

“What's for lunch?” Then we have lunch “What's for dinner?”

Your closet is full but you have nothing to wear!

Worry eats up our time. Our peace. Steals our focus. Steals our joy.

You can see when someone is wearing worry! They look weary!

I love that Jesus says just look at the birds.

I'll bet there were even some flying that very moment!

If we believe God made it all. We have a relationship with Him. Then when we use our eyes look to the birds we see that yes, God cares for them. Of course he'll care for me!

But if our eyes are bad, and think it all happened for no reason, by nobody, and we're just the survival of the fittest...we'll worry and steal and kill and do whatever we can to survive, no matter the cost to others.

He also points out the flowers!

No doubt some right there on the mountainside.

He says consider - examine carefully

How often do we examine anything carefully?

Maybe the things we buy.

But the birds? The field?

Ever birdwatch? Just sit and look at the field, the grass in the breeze

Kids and I watching lightning

Psalm 103:13-16 NKJV - As a father pities [his] children, [So] the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we [are] dust. [As for] man, his days [are] like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more.

Solomon's glory

Wisest man to ever live (other than Jesus)

Super rich

Glory - opinion, view, estimate good/bad, splendor, brightness, majesty, exaltation

The flowers have more glory than that!

Heavenly glory. Made by God. Romans 1

Your clothes may be dirty - but if you love God he'll clothe you in robes of righteousness Because of Jesus. Our relationship with him.

Our spiritual clothing outshines our physical clothes

IF we're not clothed spiritually, we're going to try and cover ourselves worryingly, physically

Adam and Eve in the garden

Is there a tag on you?

If we're not eating of the spiritual, we'll be obsessed with feeding the physical

Oh you of little faith! Worrying about these things shows how little faith we have. That all of our faith is wrapped up in what we can provide ourselves. What we can clothe ourselves with. And we worry because we realize we can't control what's coming.

The rebuke to someone who is worried - is that they don't have faith, or at least have faith in the wrong things.

As believers, we have no reason to worry!

Worry is our emotional, mental, physical effort in place of the peace through faith. And it has no place in our lives as believers.

:30-34

Jesus repeats it - oh you of little faith!

All these things the Gentiles seek! Unbelievers! *Heathen prayers!*

We are a different people now. A “new creation”

Why do they seek these things? Why do they worry?
Because they don't have a relationship with their Heavenly Father.

God controls everything. God knows everything. God owns everything.
And we're sitting here worried about...what?

Psalm 37:25 NKJV - I have been young, and [now] am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.

This doesn't mean you won't be poor, or in need
Paul naked, shipwrecked, beaten, hungry...

But you will never have spiritual lack. You will be spiritually full even in your physical lack.
I've been through hard times, but Jesus always came through.

Worry and our world - peace and safety

Universal basic income, more government programs, universal healthcare. The tax man stealing from you to pay for me.

We will either serve God or mammon.

The answer to worry? The answer to needs being met?

Seeking first God's kingdom.

Building his house before you build your own.

It seems opposite. But it's not

Seeking a relationship with Him. His answer to your needs. Praying before you do something.
Before you invest. Before you lose your cool.

It'll change the way you see things.

Jesus said it, do we have faith to believe it? All these things will be added to you

Psalm 37:4-5 NKJV - Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring [it] to pass.

That our father knows our needs. We can pray about our needs for today. Seek Him to come through for the things that worry us. Today. There's enough going on in any one of our lives and nobody can control today let alone tomorrow.

So leave tomorrow to God.

Again, be wise. Be a good steward. Don't use it as an excuse to squander what God has provided. But don't put your faith in the things he's provided. But your faith in the provider.

**Especially in our day and age, today really has enough trouble.
If we add worrying about tomorrow, next week, 20 years from now -
we'll miss out on everything God has for us today.**

That time with family. That time with friends. That joy around a simple meal at dinner. The rest of an afternoon nap.

**We don't have to have a little faith because we have a big heavenly father
...who knows we need all these things**