

FPFWC Christian Development



Jesus Teaches About Faith

June 2021

Summer Quarter

June 5, 2021

Lesson #1 –Freed from Worry

Scripture Focus – Matthew 6:25-34

ICE BREAKER –

1. Why should we not worry?
2. How can we keep from worrying?
3. What does it mean to seek God first?

Key Verse: Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.—Matthew 6:32b–33

LESSON BACKGROUND

Today's text is near the middle of Jesus' discourse known as the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7). Containing some of the best known of Jesus' teachings, the sermon answers the question raised by Jesus' announcement of the coming of God's kingdom (4:17): What is life like under God's rule?

Jesus' answers touch on the most sensitive areas of human experience. God will bless the weak and lowly (Matthew 5:3–6), those who reflect God's character (5:7–9), and those who suffer in the name of Jesus (5:10–12). God's people will be ambassadors of His redeeming truth (5:13–16), fulfilling God's will with lives that are righteous inside and out (5:17–30). Their integrity and love will reflect God's own, extending even to those who wish them ill (5:31–48). They will be godly not simply on the outside, where others can see, but also inside, where God alone sees (6:1–8, 14–24). God's people will let Him judge others, as they pursue His righteousness and give help to others in that pursuit (7:1–6).

Repeatedly in the sermon, Jesus addressed the problem of worry. Subjects under God's rule are to pray for God's will to be done in all the earth, dependent on Him to supply the resources, grace, and strength that they need daily (Matthew 6:9–13). They live in confidence that God is a kind, generous Father who gladly gives His children what they need to thrive (7:7–12).

Our text is preceded by statements that contrast the trust of a citizen in God's kingdom with the life of someone who lacks that trust. If God cannot be trusted to provide for us, we must provide for ourselves by accumulating and hoarding possessions. But we know those will fail us in the end. Only storing

“treasures in heaven” works in the long run. This happens as we put our confidence in God’s reliable promise to provide (Matthew 6:19–21).

LESSON COMMENTARY

6:25–30. Materialism beguiles one of heavenly treasure, obscures spiritual sight, and enslaves to something other than God (vv. 19–24). **For this reason** (v. 25) the followers of Christ must not permit themselves to be obsessed with worldly goods. **Do not be worried** is an imperative verb which means “to have anxiety based upon perceived or real impending misfortune” (see also Php 4:6). God gives the greater gifts (**life** and one’s **body**) and will supply the lesser ones (**food, clothing**). The Father **feeds** the birds (v. 26); but He hardly ever makes worms rain from the sky into opened beaks. They work for their food, but He providentially puts worms where the birds peck. His children are more precious to Him than birds; they can count on Him to provide food, clothing, and shelter, usually through their work (which He also provides). By **being worried** (v. 27) one cannot add a **single hour** (literally “one cubit”) to one’s life span, which is sometimes described in units of measured distances. Wild flowers usually grow only for a few weeks in Israel because it is so arid, but God dresses them with splendor (vv. 28–30). The materials to make dyes were difficult to obtain and yielded mediocre results. Even Solomon could not clothe himself in garments as brilliantly colored as the **lilies of the field**. Such vegetation, however, was disposable, used for tinder to light the fire in a home’s oven. God can be trusted to clothe the follower of Jesus, whom He values more than dried grass.

6:31–32. For the second time Jesus forbids fixating on things. Such obsession characterizes the **Gentiles**—probably a reference to those outside the covenant community of God who, as a result, do not know God’s provision.

6:33. The **kingdom** includes both a future cataclysmic coming and present effects (see the commentary on Mt 13). To **seek first His kingdom** involves not only being prepared for its future coming but also incarnating its values and glorifying its King in the present time. **His righteousness** (see 6:1) surely includes what He demands of His children ethically (see the connection of **kingdom** and ethical **righteousness** in Rm 14:17). **All these things** include the basic essentials of life. There is no guarantee that God provides luxury items when people claim them or visualize their reception. The main point of 6:33 is that God so demands His people’s undivided attention that He promises to provide their necessities so that they will not worry about them and can fully concentrate on Him.

6:34. In the phrase **tomorrow will care** [lit., “will worry”] **for itself**, Jesus probably personifies **tomorrow** as owning its own anxieties. It is folly to wrest what belongs to “Mr. Tomorrow” and make it one’s own today. Instead, when tomorrow comes, it will have **enough trouble of its own**, but God will enable the believer to handle those troubles then (6:25).

LESSON NUGGET – We need things to live (v.32), and God provides these things for us (v.33); but acquiring things must not be the main goal of life. You are living ofr things when they capture your heart, divide your mind, and control your will; and the result of this is worry. The solution is to put God first and start living with eternity’s values in view.

Sources: *Moody Bible Commentary, Standard Lesson Commentary, The Essential Everyday Bible Commentary and Wiersbe Expository Outlines on the New Testament*