



SERMON ON THE MOUNT

SERMON ON THE MOUNT WEEK 8: MATTHEW 6:25-34

Community Group Study Guide - Week of March 14, 2021

Introduction:

- God wants us, as his children, to embrace the richness of the title of “child of the God of universe.” Therefore, with our earthly riches, we’re to have an eternal perspective. We’re to view everything that God gives us in this life as a gift. We’re to steward it all for His glory and for service to our neighbor.
- The illustration of a magnolia tree breathing a sigh of relief when snow is knocked off of it gives a sense of the kind of relief that we can experience when we trust God to provide all of our material needs in life.
- The root of anxiety is fear. The way we fight fear is with faith.

1. Do not be anxious:

- v25: There are different kinds of anxiety. Some are God-given and helpful, and others void of faith and sinful.
- There is a difference between *concern* over things that we have power to address, and *worry* over things that we have no power to control.
- Anxiety arises when we don’t want to trust God with the things that we cannot control; it arises when we let worry over physical things crowd out our concern for spiritual things.
- Worrying about things one cannot control never helps a situation; it kills joy, clouds our eternal vision, and moves into the area of sin and foolishness when it consumes a person’s life.
- The main thrust of this passage is that Christians can have lives free of anxiety and constant worry despite the inevitable challenges of daily life.

2. Focus on Your Father

- Anxiety is overcome when the object of one’s focus/fixation is removed and replaced by something that is more worthy of attention (or worship). Ultimately, people will keep searching for the true source of satisfaction, rest and love until they have it in God the Father.
- v25: “Do not be anxious” is something that we need to remind ourselves constantly and continuously
- v26: “If I don’t worry about physical things of life then who will?” Answer: your heavenly Father. He provides animals with nourishment, so how much more will he provide his image bearers who are blood-bought children in Christ? Only those who are truly children of God receive the Father’s special care.
- v27: Every day that you’re alive is allotted to you by God. Worrying is fruitless. It can’t lengthen your life, but it can actually shorten it and decrease your quality of life.
- Worrying is a sign that you do not adequately know or trust the Sovereign God.
- v28-30: Do not be anxious about clothing like the rest of the world, but trust your Father to provide your clothing needs and material needs.
- v30: “Oh, you of little faith”: Christ is calling us to exercise our faith like a muscle in this life. We should live in a way in which we are required to live by faith and be dependent on God.
- v31-32: Jesus puts those consumed with anxiety on the same level as a non-believer.

3. Seek after the kingdom

- When we’re wavering between faith and anxiety, the struggle is about what we’re seeking first. Are we seeking materials, things of this world, first? Or are we seeking God, His kingdom, and His righteousness first?
- There are only two ways to live, either for your little kingdom or God’s great kingdom.
- How do we turn away from seeking stuff instead of seeking His kingdom? We look at the gospel, which reminds us that we don’t have a greater need than the debt of our sin being forgiven. We have that debt forgiven when we place our faith in Jesus Christ. We then lead lives of thankfulness, calling others to accept God’s grace within the context of a local church.
- Heb. 10:32-34: The early church focused on the gospel, and that is what allowed the first century church to grow despite facing persecution.
- What does it look like to seek the Kingdom of God first?
 - 2 Cor. 11:24-28: Have a concern for the health of the church
 - 1 Cor. 12:21-26, Phil 2:19-21: Seek to meet the needs of brothers and sister in the church.
- v34: Christ realistically acknowledges that there is unavoidable worry to each day, but instructs us to limit our worry to only the worries of today.
- If you have anxiety, don’t turn to diversions, turn to God. The main way to fight anxiety is with the promises of God that are in the Bible.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand that God tends to the needs of His children with special attention

Heart

To believe that Christians can have lives free of anxiety and constant worry despite the inevitable challenges of leading lives of faith

Hands

To steward God’s daily provision of our needs in ways that are glorifying to His name and oriented toward building His kingdom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A **Baptism Seminar will be held on March 28 at 1PM.** Email admin@mosaicboston.com if you plan to attend.

Please go to <https://brookline.mosaicboston.com/serve> to **sign up for a service team.**

This **Sunday, March 21**, we will hold a **Prayer Service at 5PM.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 6:25-34

Do not be anxious.

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your anxiety level over the last year? What were you most anxious about?
2. What are forms of God-given anxiety?
3. How does concern differ from worry? Why does worry fall into the category of sin?
4. Pastor Jan talked about how worry can fog up our sight (our ability to view all of our materials in life with an eternal perspective). Have you ever experienced this? What helped you regain your sight?

Focus on your father.

5. How does focusing on the Father help a Christian who is struggling with anxiety?
6. Have you ever experienced joy and freedom by meditating on the sovereignty of God? Describe the details of the moment.
7. The opposite of worry is faith in our great God. How can one grow in their faith and grow to have a more correct view of God?

Seek after the kingdom.

8. What does it mean to seek after God's kingdom? How can we do this as a member of a church?
9. **Read verse 34.** What is profound about the wisdom that Christ shares in this verse?
10. How did meditating on the gospel help the early church grow?

Read the promises that God gives to His children in scripture if your group has the time.

Romans 8:31-32

2 Corinthians 12:9

Psalm 32:8

Hebrews 6:8

Matthew 7:11

Psalm 103:3

Isaiah 46:4

Phil 1:6