



## 14: Driven By Distraction? (Matthew 6:19-34)

Where can we find peace in our fast-paced culture full of schedules, deadlines, bills, & worries? Today we discover how Jesus answers those who have been distracted from what matters most.

### beourguest

Thanks so much for joining us today! Please register with our **CONNECT CARD**.

- Use our **WI-FI: *Worship Center Guest***



CONNECT CARD



CHURCH APP

### getourapp

Download our **CHURCH APP** for sermons & notes, ways to connect, upcoming events, online giving, & more.

## teachingnotes

The rich are tempted to trust their possessions. The poor are tempted to doubt God's provision. Each is in danger of being distracted by what they *do* have or what they *don't* have.

### Earthly Treasure Versus Eternal Treasure

**Matthew 6:19-21** (NIV) **Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth**, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also**.

Those who live to **store up treasures on earth** should recognize that the stuff we own won't be ours forever; it will be destroyed or taken by another. In Jesus' day, expensive clothing & grain in storehouses were considered **treasures**.<sup>1</sup>

- **MOTH** In Jesus' day a person's clothing often demonstrated wealth (1 Tim. 2:9 - Paul warns against dressing to show off wealth). No matter how expensive the clothing was, a **moth** could deposit eggs and the larvae could quickly chew through it.
- **VERMIN** While most Bibles translate this term as **rust**, this Greek word refers to anything that consumes and destroys - it can refer to oxidation eats metals or insects & rodents that eat food.<sup>2</sup> This term is used in the Septuagint (Greek translation of Hebrew text) referring to insects eating the farm crops (Mal 3:11).
- **THIEVES** In the ancient world a person's valuables (treasures) were often buried under house floors since **thieves** could burrow through the clay walls of homes of carry off the family savings.

➡ The **luxuries** that people live for are all **temporary**.

Jesus points His disciples to...

### **LIVE for what will LAST.**

**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.** (Verse 21)

\* **16 of the 38 parables Jesus told** talk about how to handle money and possessions.<sup>3</sup> The stuff we own reveals something about our **hearts** - it reveals *WHAT* or *WHO* owns us.

✓ Followers of Jesus should be more interested in being **CONTRIBUTORS** than **CONSUMERS**.

? **What am I doing to contribute to the kingdom?** How are you using time, talents, & treasure to invest in people for eternity?

**Matthew 6:22-23** (NIV) The eye is the lamp of the body. If your **eyes are healthy**, your whole body will be full of light. But if your **eyes are unhealthy**, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

If **your eye is healthy** it results in **light**; you can clearly see what is in front of you; but **if your eye is diseased** (e.g. cataracts) it results in **darkness**; you see life in a blurry, distorted way. **This language (healthy vs. diseased eyes) is Hebrew imagery**, not to denote *WHAT* a person sees, but **HOW a person sees**, through the lenses of *generosity* or *greed*.

• **Healthy/good eye** represents generosity in the Old Testament. **Diseased/evil eye** represents greed.

[See the LSB word-for-word translation compared to thought-for-thought rendering as "greedy" (CSB) or "stingy" (NET, ESV, NIV).]

**Proverbs 28:22** (LSB) A man with an **evil eye** hurries after wealth and does not know that want will come upon him. (NIV) The **stingy** are eager to get rich and are unaware that poverty awaits them.

☀ **Warren Wiersbe:** "Wealth can be enjoyed and employed at the same time if our purpose is to honor God."

<sup>1</sup> Ridderbos, H. N. *Matthew*. Translated by Ray Togtman. Bible Student's Commentary. Grand Rapids: Regency Reference Library, Zondervan, 1987.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Tehan and David Abernathy, *An Exegetical Summary of the Sermon on the Mount*, 2nd ed. (Dallas, TX: SIL International, 2008), 127.

<sup>3</sup> Howard L. Dayton, Jr., *Leadership*, Vol. 2, no. 2.

## Which Master are YOU Serving?

**Matthew 6:24** (NIV) **No one can serve two masters.** Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and money.**

Although unusual, there were cases where a slave was owned by 2 brothers<sup>4</sup> or even multiple owners (e.g. demon possessed fortune teller in Acts 16:16, 19). "**Hate**" and "**despise**" is the same language used when Jesus says,

*"If anyone comes to me and does not **hate** his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and even his own life—he cannot be my disciple." (Lk 14:26)*

**Hate** and **despise** is hyperbolic language to clarify *WHO* has 1st place in our lives. **Money**<sup>5</sup> is not our master and we are not devoted to our stuff. Instead, we **love God** and are devoted to **Him - HE is our Master.**

❓ What do YOU stop giving to when things get tight?

❓ If others saw how we used our money & stuff, would they conclude that wealth was a TOOL or our GOAL?

## Doubting God's Provision

**Matthew 6:25-26** (NIV) Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you not much more valuable than they?**

**Jesus points to birds to remind His audience how God provides for animals on a daily basis.** Maybe the next time you see a bird feeding you'll be reminded...how God provides everyday for YOU!!!

**Jesus reminds His audience that God values people much more than animals.** If God gives daily provision for animals...He will certainly provide for His crowning creation - those created in His image!

## Does Worry Really Help?

**Matthew 6:27-30** (NIV) **Can** any one of you by **worrying add a single hour\* to your life?** And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, **will He not much more clothe you**—you of little faith?

Worry does us no good, except to **DISTRACT us from the truth** - that you can TRUST your Heavenly Father! As God clothes the ordinary grass with the beautiful flowers...remember...YOU are His crowning creation! YOU are created in His image!

🕒 The next time you see the growing plants or feeding birds...remember that **God provides for them...and He cares more about providing for you!**

★ Some translations use "cubit" instead of **hour**, but Jesus here "refers not to adding a 'mere' cubit to one's height—which would be a considerable addition!—but to adding a 'mere' cubit to one's longevity."<sup>6</sup>

## Seek the Kingdom & Trust Father's Provision

**Matthew 6:31-34** (NIV) So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But **seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

✗ Worrying about the necessities of life is a WASTE of time & energy - **pagans** (i.e. unbelievers) worry.

✓ Followers of Jesus trust that our **Heavenly Father knows** and will provide for what you **need!** Your children probably don't worry about whether they will have enough food, drink, or clothes, because YOU...the good parent takes care of all that.

🕒 Instead of worrying, **do YOUR part** (study, prepare, pray, work hard) **and trust God to do His part.**

Don't get distracted by all that other stuff - **Keep your EYES on the KING and His KINGDOM.**

🌟 **Leonard Ravenhill** - "Are the things you are living for worth Jesus dying for?"

## LIVE for what will LAST

and trust your Father to provide for the necessities of life.

<sup>4</sup> Donald A. Hagner, *Matthew 1-13*, vol. 33A, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1993), 159.

<sup>5</sup> Biblical Studies Press, *The NET Bible*, Second Edition. (Denmark: Thomas Nelson, 2019). \* from Aramaic term sometimes transliterated as *mammon* - meaning wealth - which includes clothes, property, & valuables

<sup>6</sup> Craig S. Keener, *The Gospel of Matthew: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2009), 237.

▶ **Thank your Father for daily provision.**

- Really thank your Father before your meal.
- Fill up that glass of water and THANK HIM for this most important yet least appreciated provision.
- Instead of struggling over which clothes to wear from your closet, THANK HIM that you have some!!!

▶ **Be generous (not greedy) with your time, talents, & treasure.**

- Are you giving your time & talents to serve others & further the Kingdom? How about your treasure? How are you using your home, vehicle, & funds to serve others & further the Kingdom?

▶ **Seek the King and His KINGDOM.**

- Open the Scriptures to know Who Jesus is and what Jesus says.
- Practice God's Presence. (Live like you believe He is with you.)
- Share the hope of Jesus with another person made in His image.

May this week be the week that we wake up & go to bed praying...**Lord Jesus help me to LIVE for what will LAST!**

## discussion questions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? (Look back in your notes to help explain your answer.)
2. What are your top three worries? How does WORRY affect us emotionally, physically, and spiritually?
3. **Read Matthew 6:19.** 16 of the 38 parables Jesus told talk about how to handle money and possessions. Why do YOU THINK that is?
4. **Read Matthew 6:20-21.** What are some ways that we can store up treasures in heaven? What did Jesus mean by saying, "*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*"? Give some examples how the use of our time, talents, and treasure show us whether we are living for what will last beyond this side of life.
5. **Read Matthew 6:25-30.** What plant and animal examples does Jesus point to in order to show God's provision? What difference does Jesus mention between plants, animals, and US? How might appreciating the beauty of flowers growing or birds feeding help you trust God's desire & ability to provide for your daily needs?
6. **Read Matthew 6:31-34.** What does it mean to seek God's Kingdom first? What's the promise for those who do that and how should this encourage us?
7. What needs do you have that brothers/sisters here might be able to help you with?
8. **Look at today's FEET2FAITH challenges** & share some practical suggestions could help you focus on living for what will last.
9. Share prayer needs and **pray for one another.**

## heretoseveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- \* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- \* Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (850-673-7952), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).