

Following The Way Of The Kingdom: Studies in the Sermon on the Mount

First Methodist Church of Tulsa
Fall 2025
Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson

Session 6: Possessions (Matthew 6:19–34)
October 22, 2025

MATTHEW 6:33

*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.*

1. What do you trust in? What are some of the things that you rely upon that you almost don't even think about? Why do you rely upon or trust in them?

2. What comes into your heart when you think about trusting in God alone for your daily bread, your health, and even your safety? What concerns does that way of living elicit for you?

3. What do you think a life of trusting in God looks like? Are there anxieties attached to that? What are they? Write them down and commit them to God in prayer.

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- I. Chapter 5:17 through 6:18 dealt with fidelity to covenant or righteousness.
 - A. Remember the third question, “what is righteousness?”
 - B. The law and the prophets in chapter 5
 - C. The practice of piety in accordance with the Spirit in 6:1-18.
 - D. The next section is what those hinge upon - whether or not we trust God with our whole lives.
 - 1. It’s shaping reality and leading us into what the blessed life really is.
 - 2. To have a transformed heart, we have to be clear upon what direction our life is headed.
 - 3. The direction is important (bounded sets)
- II. 6:19-34 deals with trust
 - A. I know the title of this is possessions, because that’s what Jesus uses as an image to talk about the issue of trust.
 - 1. Let’s think for a moment about the things we trust in:



2. What do we rely upon without actually thinking about it
 - a) Electricity? Fully stocked grocery stores? Police to keep us safe?
 - b) What else? (Write on whiteboard)
- B. 6:19-24 - Don't seek possessions
 1. In this section, Jesus is cautioning us against seeking after treasure, or making our whole lives about that.
 2. Why?
 - a) vv. 19-21 - Do not accumulate earthly treasures. There's two issues at work here.
 - (1) One is that the stuff of this world can be stolen or it can deteriorate.
 - (2) It's functionally like building a sand castle and seeing a wave destroy it. A lot of work goes into something temporary.
 - (3) Since we've been talking about the heart, what do our hearts do when that which we've been focused on is taken away or falls apart?
 - (4) Our sense of meaning and purpose are affected.
 - (5) Jesus comes back around to this in v. 21 saying, "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
 - (6) Pursuing the kingdom here on earth—treasure in heaven—is incorruptible and cannot be taken away.
 - b) vv. 22-23 The eye - this is about focus or what we're trained upon.
 - (1) Are we focused on earthly treasure? Bad eye. Or on the kingdom? Healthy eye.
 - (2) A cloudy or dark eye is made that way by focus on something other than Jesus.
- C. 6:25-34 - Don't worry about possessions.
 1. v. 24 - No one can serve two masters. We'll either serve the powers and principalities, the spirit of the age or we'll serve Jesus.
 - a) You cannot build your life around pursuing the things of the earth if you want to be completely God's.



- b) Being completely God's means putting things in the proper place.
 - (1) Jesus and Bob Barefoot - Robert Coleman.
 - (2) Tapes from 1977; loaned his car and it was wrecked.
 - (3) They were tools, not goals.
- 2. vv. 25-33 - Therefore. Look back at the previous five verses. Don't store up treasure, have a single focus on the kingdom instead of possessions and treasure, you cannot serve both God and money (mammon - a god). Therefore what?
 - a) Do not be anxious about your life. What does that mean? The Greek word translated as "anxious" has within its valence of meaning "to meditate." What is anxiety except persistent thinking upon something?
 - b) Jesus pointing to the birds and the plants have an obvious correlation here. Can plants and animals persistently worry about anything? No, they don't have a human consciousness.
 - c) But if God takes care of them, will he not take care of you? This is the trust issue. It's not as though we aren't supposed to work to provide—he made us with work in mind. It's that we can't make the focus of our lives the pursuit of those things.
 - d) That's why he contrasts the life of the Gentiles and worriers with v. 33—seek first his kingdom, and trust that he will provide for you.
- 3. v. 34 - So don't meditate on tomorrow, but live in the present in the presence of the God who loves you.

III. Conclusion

- A. Covenant faithfulness, righteousness, requires trust. It requires allegiance.
 - 1. If we divide our trust and allegiances, or if we treat God like an insurance policy, we're going to get off track.
 - 2. But, if we wholly trust him we can be sure of a couple of things.



- a) Joshua 1:5 - No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.
- b) Rom. 8:31 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.