

Matthew 6:25-34, The Freedom of Thanksgiving in the Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew 6:25-34

“**25** “Therefore I tell you: Don’t worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothing? **26** Consider the birds of the sky: They don’t sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you worth more than they? **27** Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? **28** And why do you worry about clothes? Observe how the wildflowers of the field grow: They don’t labor or spin thread. **29** Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. **30** If that’s how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won’t he do much more for you—you of little faith? **31** So don’t worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ **32** For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. **34** Therefore don’t worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

vs. 25: Do not worry about physical provisions. Life is about more than that.

vs. 26: We are worth more than the birds.

vs. 27: Worry does not accomplish what we want, it is not a fruitful path.

vs. 28-29: Consider the beauty of creation. Unexpected hierarchy in clothing.

vs. 30: It is a question of faith.

vs. 31-32: Other people, not God’s people, are concerned with earthly things.

vs. 33: Seek first God’s Kingdom. We will be provided for.

vs. 34: Do not worry about tomorrow.

Possible reaction: God knows we need these things, and they will be provided, but that isn’t often our experience. Do I lack faith?

Q: Where are your mind and heart after reading this passage? Do you believe the promises?

Matthew 4:17

“**17** From then on Jesus began to preach, ‘**Repent**, because **the kingdom of heaven** has come near.’”

Jesus begins his ministry with two fundamental elements of the Christian life: Repentance and the Kingdom of Heaven.

1. Repent: *Metanoēō* - command to “transform your minds”

Metanoia - *Meta-nous* : Beyond-Thinking

Romans 12:1-2

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. **2** Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.”

Command: “Be transformed” - *metamorphoō*

Description of transformation: “Renewal, complete change for the better”

Object of Transformation: “Of your mind” - *nous*

Acts 3:19-20

“**19** Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out, **20** that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Jesus, who has been appointed for you as the Messiah.”

The Christian life is about *Metanoia*: transformation of our minds from this worldly age to something entirely better.

2. Kingdom of Heaven: What we are transforming into.

Matthew 5:2-12

“I can’t tell if it’s where we go when we die, or if it’s kind of like a parallel world that exists while we are alive on Earth. Either way, it’s a place with completely different values than the secular world and we must live for it and that means living for Jesus and God”

The Christian life is about *the Kingdom of Heaven*: The reign of Jesus in our hearts coming now, and fulfilled in glory, secured by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus himself.

Luke 21:12-19 (CSB)

“**12** But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you. They will hand you over to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. **13** This will give you an opportunity to bear witness. **14** Therefore make up your mind not to prepare your defense ahead of time, **15** for I will give you such words and a wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. **16** You will even be betrayed by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. They will kill some of you. **17** You will be hated by everyone because of my name, **18** but not a hair of your head will be lost. **19** By your endurance, gain your lives.”

Acts:

God’s Kingdom vs. Earthly Kingdom (1:3, 6)

Repentance/ Thanksgiving (2:38, 46-47) → God’s Kingdom (3:8-9, 4:21, 34)

Contrast of worldly destruction (5:3-4)

Stephen’s display of the Kingdom (6:15, 7:55, 59-60)

Peace in the Church (9:31)

Metanoia for the Gentiles (11:18, 13:48)

Philippians 4:4-8

“**4** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **5** Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. **6** Don’t worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Hebrews 12:26-29

“**26** His voice shook the earth at that time, but now he has promised, Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens. **27** This expression, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what is not shaken might remain. **28** Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful. By it, we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe, **29** for our God is a consuming fire.”

Q: How convinced are you that the Kingdom of Heaven is better?

Where do you hold onto things of the world looking for life? Do you want the freedom of Metanoia?

Does your life reflect humble repentance and Kingdom values?

Will you join your church in the process of transformation?

What are you thankful for?

Will you allow thankfulness to renew your mind?