
This morning, we will conclude our 4-part series entitled: “Money and Worry.”



Today’s message is: “Overcoming Worries” Part 2.

Following along with me as we read just two verses of our Lord Jesus.

Matthew 6:33-34

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. **34** “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

If I had to try to sum up what Jesus has been saying in His Sermon on the Mount in Matthew, chapter 5, I would say Luke records perhaps the best summary when it comes to Jesus’ stance on money. See what you think. Take a look at the screens... Luke chapter 12:15.

Luke 12:15

15 And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

We know this is true, but it’s very hard to live it, isn’t it. We want stuff don’t we? Even though we claim to be followers of Jesus Christ, in that we call ourselves His “bondservants,” we still desire stuff don’t we?

Do you remember what a bondservant is?



He is willing to take an awl in the ear on a doorpost and give his allegiance and his servant-hood to his master for the rest of his life. That’s what it means to surrender to Jesus and when we do that, we surrender our stuff to Him too. In fact, we’re just stewards of a bunch of stuff while we’re here, because we can’t take any of it with us.

Yet, for many Christians, **materialism** is the Master and we are it’s servant. And while we wouldn’t dare it admit it...for many, our lives exemplify one who sheepishly espouses: YES INDEED, I GUESS THE WAY I'M LIVING MY LIFE DOES CONSIST IN THE ABUNDANCE OF THE THINGS I

POSSESS. Sadly, for most, we do let possessions drive us and motivate us and worry us. But, Jesus says, “Don’t be anxious about these things. Don’t worry about these things.” “Don’t stockpile stuff because moths and rust will destroy them and thieves break in and steal.” He behoves us NOT to worry about even the basics...such as food, clothing and water...because He will provide that too. After all, as we learned last week...



...if He provides for the birds...He’ll certainly provide for you!

Remember how He said it in verse 31?

Matthew 6:31-33

31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ **32** For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. **33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

What is Jesus saying? He’s saying: “Get your priorities right!” Put Him first and watch the rest of the things you need fall in line. Do you believe that? Do you believe the words of Jesus, your Master? Are you really seeking His kingdom first? If He is your Master...then you are to be about the Father’s business. Are you? Would your checkbook show that you are? Would the GPS on your phone show that by where you go and what you do that you are?

What is this?



It’s the Find Friends app. It show on your phone where your friends and families are if they are signed into the App. Hey, would you let Jesus sign in to your App...to your life...to see how you are spending your time and money? He knows anyway...but, somehow we often think we can hide what we do from Him. Yet, He knows it all.

Oh...listen to me...He’s not looking down from heaven with a stern look on His face. He’s looking down and saying, “Why are you so worried? I’ve got you!”

Watch how He described worry? Look back at verse 30.

Matthew 6:30

30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

Did you know Jesus used that phrase on only four other occasions and all of those occasions He used it with His Apostles... He never used that phrase with the crowds or with the Pharisees. He used it with the apostles #1 when they thought they would be swamped on the Sea of Galilee with the storm and Jesus was asleep in the bottom of the boat.

#2 He used it with Peter on the occasion when Peter was walking on the water and then took His eyes off of Jesus. #3 He also used it after the feeding of the 4,000 when the apostles were arguing about having enough bread and #4 He used it when the apostles couldn't cast the demon out of a little boy. In fact on that occasion, Jesus was really annoyed when the father of the boy brought him to Jesus and the father said:

Matthew 17:16-17

16 And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.” **17** And Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.”

And Jesus healed the boy. But, the point is: Jesus wants us to trust Him.

Now I want you to think about something with me. Jesus was upset with His followers because of their lack of faith, and yet, they had trusted Jesus with their lives. However, time and time again they got tripped up. It's like Jesus was saying, “Come on guys...I might expect the people of the world to get tripped up for a lack of faith, but not you... you have trusted me for saving faith. You should know better! You have trusted me with your very souls and you have trusted me to break the power of Satan and the shackles of sin in your life, and you have trusted me to take you to a place called heaven that you've never seen, but why can't you seem to trust me to provide for you the basics of life?

Think about that Church: We can trust Him to deliver our souls from Hell but not from our worries about this world. Would He say to me and to you: “O ye of little faith!”

You remember what worry does don't you?



It leaves us in a fog! It can cripple our lives, like fog does a city. This is what happens when we become mastered by our circumstances. Worries can choke the life out of us like a fog!

Listen, if you are going to seek Jesus and His kingdom first...then, part of the priority of your day is going to have to be to get Jesus in you. And the way you do that is to get into His Word. And some of you are starving to death from malnutrition from a lack of sustenance in God's word. You are starving to death spiritually and Satan comes in and fills that vacuum in your spiritual life with worry.

But, listen...you can replace worry in your life with the word of God! Do you want to know why? Because when you get into the Word of God, you will see how in the past He has supplied the needs of His people throughout history. And that will give you confidence for the future! Get into the Bible folks!!! Good Christian music...not the junk of this world!

Have you thought about tomorrow yet? When do you start thinking about Monday? This afternoon? Tonight? How about right now? What do you have coming up this week? Does it worry you? Overwhelm? Put you in a fog? Do you know what Jesus says about tomorrow? He says, "Don't worry about it." Look at verse 34...

Matthew 6:34

34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Have you heard the old saying, "You can't live tomorrow until it gets here?" In other words, you can only live one day at a time. That's what Jesus is saying.

Did you know God is already in tomorrow? He's already there. You see, God created time for us. He doesn't need time. You see, there's never been a time when God hasn't existed. Nobody made God. He doesn't have a mother or father. He doesn't have a beginning or an end. God has always existed. Can you wrap your brain around that? But, we exist in time to see whether or not we'll choose God as our Master. God put us on this earth to give us that choice. If we choose Jesus, we'll get eternity in heaven. If we reject Jesus, we'll get eternity in Hell. It's our choice.

And here's the kicker... If you choose Jesus...you get His help and His peace and His direction for your tomorrow and the next day and the next day and the next.

But listen, if we're not careful, we'll let worry shove us into the future until WORRY finds something that can get you upset and troubled. That's the way worry works! Worry always keeps us looking into the future for something else to worry about it. Is that you?

Jesus says, "Don't do that. You've got enough to think about today." He's saying, "Trust me!" And if you will...the fog will clear and you'll have joy even in the midst of difficulty and even great suffering.

You see, so many of us forfeit the joy of today for the worries about tomorrow. We make that dreadful exchange and we live miserable lives...always worried about something that's not even happened yet. Don't let worry push you into the future and you forfeit today's provision and today's joy!

The prophet Isaiah encourages this way:

Isaiah 26:3

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Where is your mind today? If it's on Jesus, you will have peace. If not, your bedmate will be worry!

Can I ask you something? Do you think it's possible that God could allow us to go without food to

go without drink, to go without shelter, and yet we still say that He's providing for us? Is God's provision ONLY material things? Is it more?

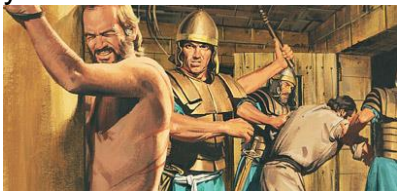
Turn in your Bibles to 2 Corinthians 11. Paul was describing all of the difficulties of his life. Watch...

2 Corinthians 11:24-32

24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. **25** Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; **26** on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; **27** in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. **28** And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.

Hold your finger here: we're coming back!

Would you say God was providing for Paul? Verse 27 said that he was hungry and thirsty. He was anxious. He was beaten and whipped and cold and exposed! Does that make you want to say: Come on Paul! God sure let you down! I guess you don't get this 'provision thing' of Jesus, did you?"



Listen, is it possible that it might be God's will that we go without food? Is it possible that we might suffer for the kingdom? Is that somehow God letting us down? Does that match up with Matthew 6:33...and if we seek Jesus first that He will supply what we need. See it again:

Matthew 6:33

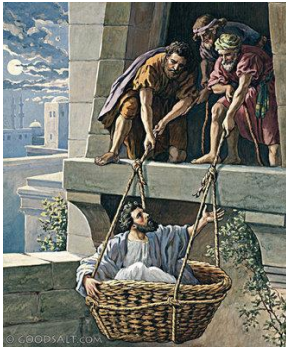
33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Could the "things" be more than food and clothes? Water and shelter? YES!!!! YES!!!! We stopped reading too soon. Look back at 2 Corinthians 11, verse 29.

2 Corinthians 11:29-33

29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? **30** If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. **31** The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. **32** At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas (**Ah-RAY-Toss**) was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, **33** but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

Could God use a basket for Paul's provision?



Sure he did! Like an ark for Noah and his family. Like Abraham's ram last week. Like David's smooth stone for his sling, like the ravens that fed Elijah the prophet, like a scarlet thread that saved a prostitute, Rahab and her entire family.

A basket, an ark, a ram, a stone, ravens, a red rope... God's provision! God's provision in turmoil...in suffering. Paul running for his life...Noah building an ark to escape a wicked world that would soon be destroyed...Abraham tasked with killing his son...David with a 9 foot tall giant staring him in the face...Elijah starving at a brook called Cherith... Rahab...a prostitute turned deliverer for Joshua and Caleb...hoping they would keep their word and rescue her and here family from destruction. **They were all suffering folks.** They were all hurting and I'm sure they were worried. And yet, God provided. We were reading about Paul's troubles...let me remind you what Paul said before he headed back to Jerusalem on his third missionary journey in Acts 20?

Acts 20:22-24

22 And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, **23** except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. **24** But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

That's a man living for the Kingdom. That's a man serving His Master. That's a man that can see past the fog and look straight into the eyes of His Savior. That's a man seeking first the kingdom of God. That's a man who's not worried about the stuff of this earth. That's a man who found in Jesus more than enough. And that's why he could sing at midnight...



...while his feet were stretched out in stocks in a Philippian jail! Jesus was providing!

He was giving him peace and strength! He was sustaining him. No...not with good food or maybe any food...perhaps with there was no water in the prison ...but Paul got something even better...HIS PRESENCE.

Do you see! Jesus is enough. His provision is Himself! Is Jesus enough for you? That's the question of the day. That's what Jesus is driving at in His sermon. Is He enough?

So, I'll ask you as we close...

What are you seeking? What do you want? Listen, if Jesus isn't at the top of that list, you will not know peace...you will struggle and you'll remain in a fog. And some of you are in a fog today because you are spending so little time with Jesus. Get back to Him being the priority. Get back to reading His word. Knock the dust off your Bibles and as you do...the fog will begin to clear. Because His word is a lamp to your feet and a light to your path.

You see, if you choose to put Jesus as the top priority of your life and you will seek Him first...you'll know peace...because your master is the Prince of Peace and His provision of peace is like bread for the belly and water for the soul and a covering like a royal robe for the mind. So, I pray today, that you will trust Jesus and His provision for you today, for if you will...you will Overcome Worry!