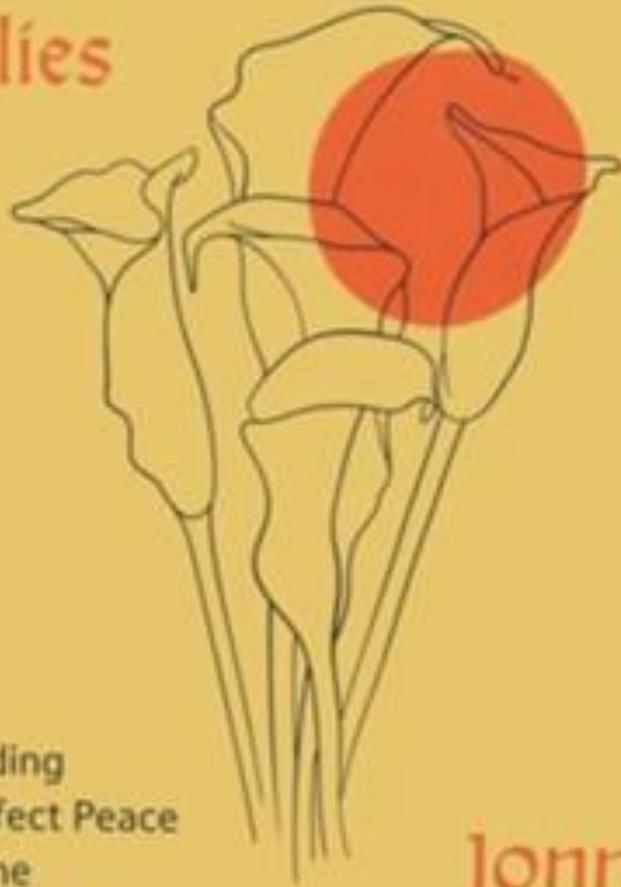


Consider
the
Lilies

"This book is exceptional
in every way."
—JOHN MACARTHUR



Finding
Perfect Peace
in the
Character
of God

Jonny
Ardavanis

Consider the Lilies

Chapter 4: *The Spiritual Physician*

Good surgeons, like all good physicians, do not simply operate or prescribe medication, nor do they merely address symptoms, but rather they conduct a careful consideration of the underlying causes and corresponding symptoms before extending the remedy. (pg. 41)

Matthew 6:25 – “Do not be anxious...”

We might believe that ancient fears are different from our own, but the followers of Christ then possessed many of the same worries and fears we face now: Will I be able to provide for my family? Am I safe? Will God meet my needs? What about my loved ones' needs? (pg. 41)

The Greek Word: *Merimnaō* = Concern, Care, or Anxiety/Worry?

1. Concern

Philippians 2:19-20

¹⁹ But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. ²⁰ For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned (merimnaō) for your welfare.

This “concern” for the Philippian church propelled Paul to action. He sent his son in the faith and continually lifted up the Philippian church in prayer (1:4). Therefore, in this instance, “concern” is a good and godly thing. (pg. 43)

The Greek Word: *Merimnaō* = Concern, Care, or Anxiety/Worry?

1. Concern

2. Care

1 Corinthians 12:24-25

²⁴ But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, ²⁵ so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care (merimnaō) for one another.

The Greek Word: *Merimnaō* = Concern, Care, or Anxiety/Worry?

1. Concern

2. Care

3. Anxiety/Worry

In at least twelve of the seventeen times the word merimnaō is used, it is translated as either “anxiety” or “worry.” And in each case it is something that the Bible is speaking against. (pg. 43)

The Greek Word: *Merimnaō* = Concern, Care, or Anxiety/Worry?

1. Concern

2. Care

3. Anxiety/Worry

- “Do not be anxious...” (Mt 6:25)
- “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things.” (Lk 10:41)
- “Be anxious for nothing...” (Php 4:6)

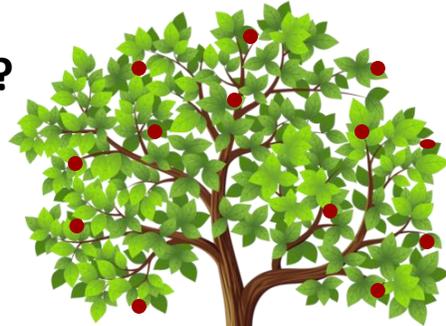
*In such instances, when the Bible speaks of anxiety and worry, it is referring to something sinful and ungodly that stems from **a deficient exercise of faith** and misdirected gaze at our problems, fears, and troubles, rather than God.
(pgs. 43-44)*

THREE TREES DIAGRAM

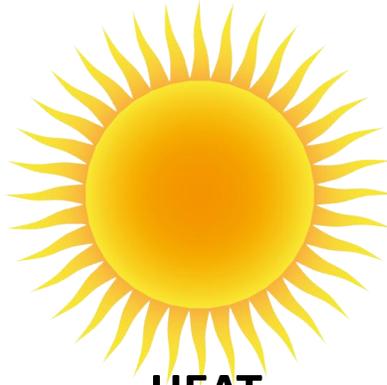
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JEREMIAH 17:5-8

GOOD FRUIT
How should you respond?



Blessing



Cursing



HEAT
What is your situation?

BAD FRUIT
How do you react?



GOOD ROOT
What should you want?

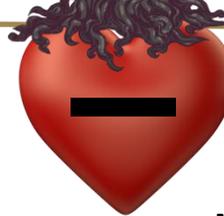


Holy Spirit
(John 7:38)



REDEEMER
Who is God and what has He done through Christ?

BAD ROOT
What do you want?



The Greek Word: *Merimnaō* = Concern, Care, or Anxiety/Worry?

1. Concern

2. Care

3. Anxiety/Worry

- “*Do not be anxious...*” (Mt 6:25)
- “*Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things.*” (Lk 10:41)
- “*Be anxious for nothing...*” (Php 4:6)

*In such instances, when the Bible speaks of anxiety and worry, it is referring to something sinful and ungodly that stems from **a deficient exercise of faith** and misdirected gaze at our problems, fears, and troubles, rather than God.
(pgs. 43-44)*

Matthew 6:30 – “*You of little faith!*”

God's Sovereignty

Trust



Obey

What I Control



God's Sovereignty

Not
Trusting

A

Not
Obeying

What I Control



God's Sovereignty

Not
Trusting

Not
Obeying

A

What I Control



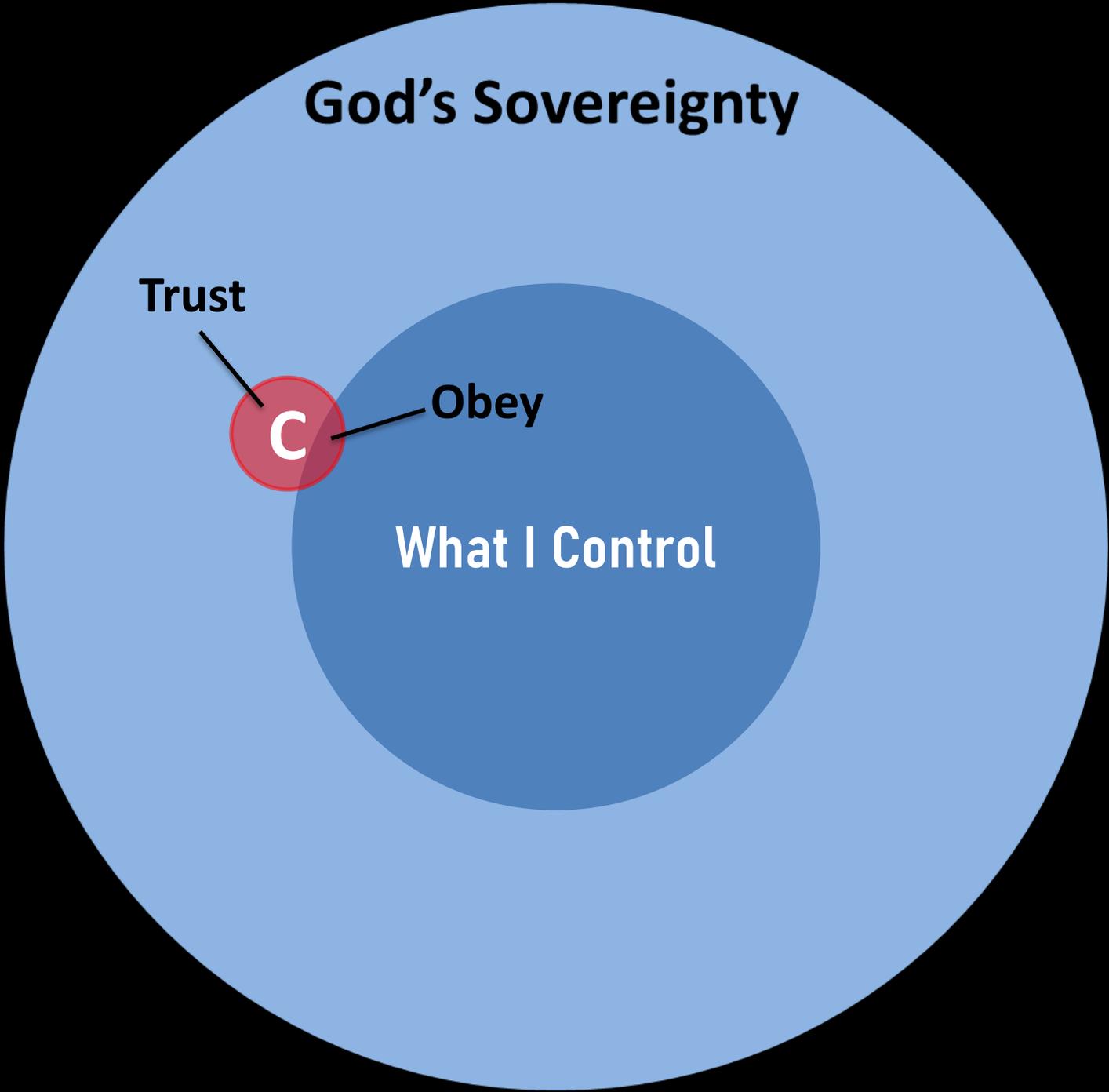
God's Sovereignty

Trust



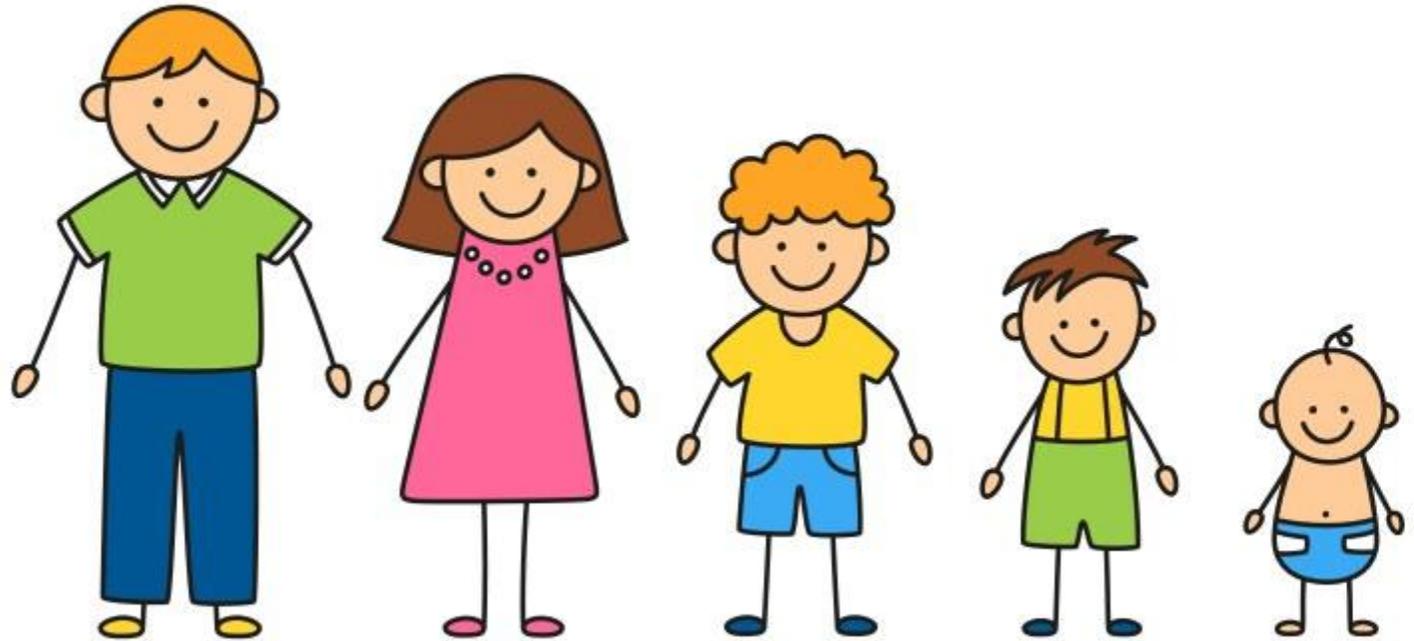
Obey

What I Control



Jack's Office

Out of
Business



What is in Jack's realm of control? What should he be faithful to do?

- Put a resume together
- Start applying for jobs
- Sure-up finances
- Meditate on Scripture

Matthew 6:25

“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”

What is in Jack's realm of control? What should he be faithful to do?

- Put a resume together
- Start applying for jobs
- Sure-up finances
- Meditate on Scripture
- Pray

Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

What is in Jack's realm of control? What should he be faithful to do?

- Put a resume together
- Start applying for jobs
- Sure-up finances
- Meditate on Scripture
- Pray
- Give thanks!

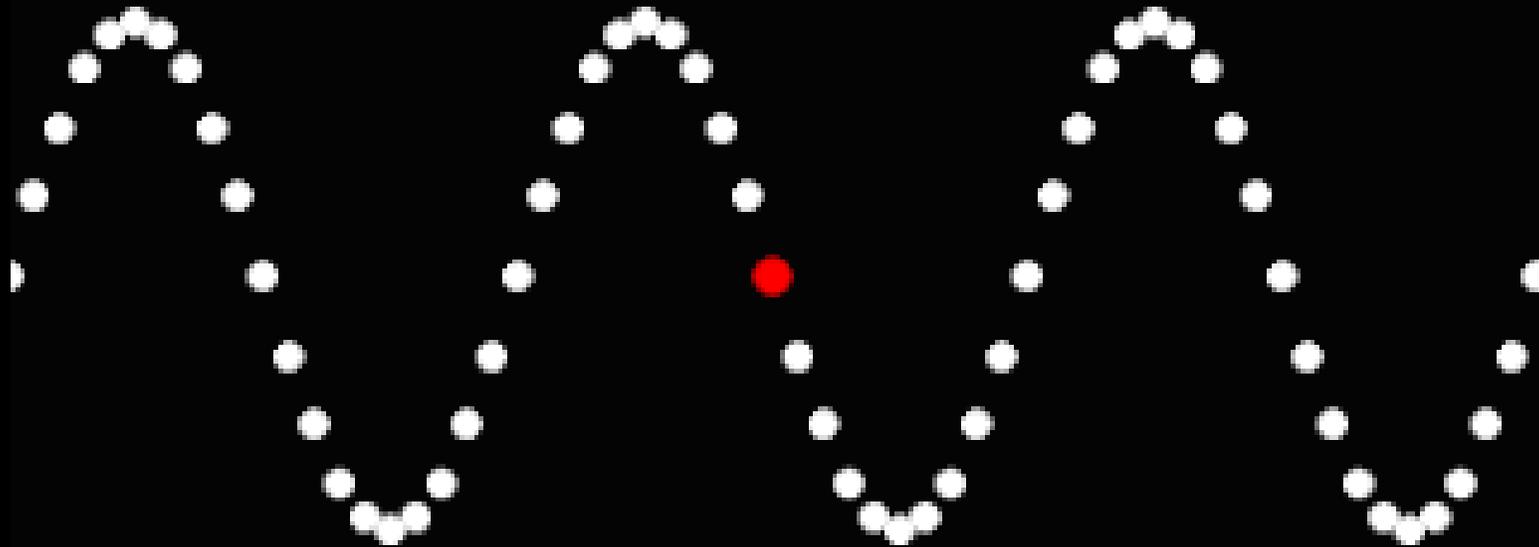
Philippians 4:6

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with **thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God.*

What might Jack do instead if he gives himself over to anxiety?

- Become irritable / sarcastic with others
- Lie on his resume / job applications
- Obsess over job listings
- Quit looking for employment
- Neglect prayer, reading Scripture, giving thanks
- Turn to things like alcohol, drugs, pornography, gambling as escapes

OUR FAITH TENDS TO EBB AND FLOW



*In such instances, when the Bible speaks of anxiety and worry, it is referring to something sinful and ungodly that stems from a deficient exercise of faith and **misdirected gaze at our problems, fears, and troubles, rather than God.** (pgs. 43-44)*

And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

(Matthew 14:29)



*In such instances, when the Bible speaks of anxiety and worry, it is referring to something sinful and ungodly that stems from a deficient exercise of faith and **misdirected gaze at our problems, fears, and troubles, rather than God.** (pgs. 43-44)*

But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" (Matthew 14:30)



4 Questions That Arise From Jesus' Teaching In Matthew 6:19-21

1. Where is your treasure?

Matthew 6:19-21

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

"Jesus illustrates that the worries of our minds often find their roots somewhere else: our treasure." (pg. 49)

Matthew 13:22

"And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry (merimnaō) of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful."

4 Questions That Arise From Jesus' Teaching In Matthew 6:19-21

1. Where is your treasure?

“When Jesus addresses our treasures, He is not necessarily referring to our possessions but to our attitude toward our possessions. A man can possess great degrees of wealth and yet hold it with an open hand and therefore be free from ‘treasuring’ his wealth. Conversely, a man can have little to his name and yet be obsessive over what he desires and greedy with what he already has.” (pg. 49)

“Treasure is an all-inclusive term. It may mean money, it may mean possessions, but it may be sports, academics, prestige, reputability, your husband, wife, children; it may be something you don't possess and yet desire, or it may be something you do possess that you are afraid to lose.” (pg. 50)

4 Questions That Arise From Jesus' Teaching In Matthew 6:19-21

1. Where is your treasure?

Hebrews 11:1

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2 Corinthians 5:7

...walk by faith, not by sight.

4 Questions That Arise From Jesus' Teaching In Matthew 6:19-21

1. Where is your treasure?

2. Where are you looking?

Matthew 6:22-23

*22 "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is **bad**, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"*

***ponēros** = evil or wicked*

"First, we look at it with our eyes and then fixate on it with our minds, and then it becomes an idol in our hearts." (pg. 51)

"If you want a realignment of your treasure, you must realign your vision, you must redirect your gaze. Jesus asks you, 'Where are you looking?' Why? Because the worries of our minds are often the fruits of where we set our gaze." (pg. 53)

4 Questions That Arise From Jesus' Teaching In Matthew 6:19-21

1. Where is your treasure?
2. Where are you looking?
3. Who is your master?

Matthew 6:24

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

James 4:4-5

⁴ You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"?

4 Questions That Arise From Jesus' Teaching In Matthew 6:19-21

1. Where is your treasure?

2. Where are you looking?

3. Who is your master?

A. Bitterness = *deep anger or resentment at being treated unfairly.*

Bitterness results from serving the idol of vengeance.

4 Questions That Arise From Jesus' Teaching In Matthew 6:19-21

1. Where is your treasure?
2. Where are you looking?
3. Who is your master?
 - A. Bitterness
 - B. Unconfessed Sin

“Our souls are not strong enough to bear the gigantic load of unconfessed and unrepented sin. (pg. 55)

Psalm 32:3-4

³ When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer.

“Those who are saved cannot lose their salvation, but do you know what they can lose? Their joy. For this reason, David, after confessing his sin, prayed, ‘Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation.’” (pg. 56)

4 Questions That Arise From Jesus' Teaching In Matthew 6:19-21

1. Where is your treasure?
2. Where are you looking?
3. Who is your master?
4. Who do you believe?

Matthew 6:30

“But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!”

“After addressing some of the root causes of anxiety, Jesus provided the ultimate cause of worry and fear: unbelief... In the previous chapter, we addressed some of the natural causes that contribute to our anxiety, but the physical and temperamental causes do not disqualify the truth of Scripture in which Jesus revealed that all worry finds at its root a lack of faith in God as Father – not in the sense that we no longer believe in God but that we no longer believe God. (pg. 56)

4 Questions That Arise From Jesus' Teaching In Matthew 6:19-21

1. Where is your treasure?
2. Where are you looking?
3. Who is your master?
4. Who do you believe?

“Unbelief in God’s promise to provide can prompt anxiety about your finances and your future. Unbelief in God’s sovereignty can function as the recipe for anxiety when you grasp at the illusion of your own control instead of entrusting everything in your life unto God’s control. Unbelief in God’s love can lead to a loss of satisfaction in that love, so much so that you seek satisfaction from the world rather than from your heavenly Father. Worry is the offspring of the mind not actively governed by faith in our Father. (pg. 57)

4 Questions That Arise From Jesus' Teaching In Matthew 6:19-21

1. Where is your treasure?
2. Where are you looking?
3. Who is your master?
4. Who do you believe?

“Worrying is carrying tomorrow’s load with today’s strength – carrying two days at once... Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow – it empties today of its strength.” -- Corrie ten Boom

Matthew 6:34

“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” (ESV)

“The anxiety the Bible speaks of is not a disease but a sin... Understanding that worry is a sin is not paralyzing; it is freeing! Why? Because only when we grasp that worry is offensive to God will we be able to move forward in confession, repentance, and transformation – which is the pathway to peace.”
(pg. 47)

“Worry is meditation. What we worry about, we fixate on. And when we fixate unduly on our fears, concerns, and cares, we fail to exercise our faith in who God is as our heavenly Father.” (pg. 46)

Next Time: Chapter 5

Your Mind Matters

