

MATT 6:19-34

AUGUST 14-20



Sermon Overview

The sixth chapter of the sermon on the mount finishes with two distinct, yet closely connected sections. First, Jesus addresses the heart of the one who places his or her trust in the treasure of this world (Matt 6:19-24)—whatever we value most is what our heart will follow. He rightly identifies our utter inability to be divided here for we “cannot serve God and money” (Matt 6:24). Secondly, Jesus addresses the heart of the one who is anxious over the lack of resources (Matt 6:25-34). In this section, he points to the futility of our anxious efforts on the basis of God’s abundant provision, our limited ability, and our failure to rightly prioritize things. Perhaps the most significant verse of this whole sections is this, “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matt 6:33). This is the key to understanding the possessions, treasures, and things of this world. They can only be rightly understood when we see them in their rightful place. As Kingdom citizens, our first priority is Christ’s Kingdom. When we begin to believe—to truly believe—this, it changes everything. This section is yet another call for followers of Christ to carefully examine their hearts in light of the gospel.

Discussion Questions

1. *Read Matthew 6:19-24.* What are some examples of “treasures on earth”? How are “treasures in heaven” different?
2. Jesus said, “For where you treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matt 6:21) In what ways have you seen evidence of this in your own life?
3. What is the purpose of the human eye? What happens when you try to focus on multiple things at the same time? How does this illustration relate to possessions (c.f. v 24).
4. *Read Matthew 6:25-34.* Take a minute and define anxiety. What evidence of anxiety do you see in our culture? In your own life?
5. What do these examples of the birds and the lilies teach us? Why do you still struggle to believe this to be true? What lies are you believing?
6. Christ calls us to seek first the kingdom of God. What would this look like for you? Give some specific examples of how this might play out personally, in your family, and in your MC.
7. How do these truths help you to live in the present and not “be anxious about tomorrow”? (Matt 6:34)

Prayer Directives

- Praise God for the abundant provision he continues to provide despite the brokenness of this world because of sin. Recognize the incredible grace of life itself, as evidenced by every breath you take.
- Confess the many ways in which you look for satisfaction and fulfillment in the “treasures” of this world and not in the true Treasure, Christ Jesus. Repent of the persistent pursuit of meaning in things that do not last.
- Thank God for the true and lasting satisfaction that is found in Christ Jesus and made available to us through his work in our place!
- Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to the empty lies of this world and the treasures it offers. Pray for an ever increasing desire for the things of God and his Kingdom.