

10-19-2025, COTR Texarkana

Title: The Sermon on the Mount, pt-11

Purpose: Provoke Christians to put God and His priorities 1st and trust Him to take care of us instead of worrying about tomorrow's needs.

Truth for Today: Jesus said if we put His priorities 1st, He'd take care of us, and we don't have to worry about tomorrow's needs.

Text: Matthew 6: 24-33

Topic: Money, Worry, Anxiety, Peace

Series Title: 100% Jesus...pure, undiluted truth.

Series Purpose: Provoke people to embrace the spiritual reality that true, lasting happiness is found by following Jesus Christ and obeying His words.

The Sermon on the Mount, pt-11

I. Introduction **Video Wilson Jesus Loves Me**

A. Review Series: '100% Jesus, pure, undiluted truth', Pt-11. We're mining nuggets of truth from the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, Mt. ch. 5-7.

B. Quote last week, 'The greatest danger to Western Christianity is not Marxism, Islam, the New Age movement or humanism but rather the materialism of our affluent culture.' The Bible teaches that money and possessions can be enjoyed but Jesus warned us never to let money or possessions take God's place in our heart.

C. Today we'll learn that if we trust God and put Him and His priorities 1st, Jesus promised to take care of us, and we don't have to worry about the necessities of life.

II. Context: [Mt.6: 24 NLT "No one can serve two **masters**...you will be **devoted** to one and (NCV **refuse to follow**) the other. **You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money** (NKJV *mammon*).] Jesus didn't say His people can't enjoy money and possessions. He just wants His Kingdom to be more important to us than the things of this world. E.g. Work on Sat. for extra money or start an outreach to help widows in need. But if Jesus is calling us to do a ministry on Sat.? (1) Will I choose ministry over money? (2) Where will the extra money I need come from? While we're deciding, we'll probably worry about not having enough. Worry is what Jesus teaches about today. 6x

III. [Vs. 25 "That is why (*Therefore ESV*) **I tell you not to worry** (*ESV be anxious*; "Don't be **overly concerned**,"²) **about everyday life**, whether you have enough **food and drink, or enough clothes** to wear. Isn't **life** more than food, and your body more than clothing?] Trans. "**What is important in life** is much more than food," "There are things **more important** to our bodies than clothing."²] What? Vs 33, seek 1st KOG and righteousness.

A. Def: worry/ anxious: mental torment that makes us imagine the worst will happen.
Worry makes us afraid and fear can paralyze us. Satan uses worry to make us believe God won't or can't help us. The antidote for worry and fear is trust/ faith in God and His word. [Psalm 56:3 (NLT) But when I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. 1 Peter 5:7 (NLT) Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. Isaiah 41:10 (NCV) So don't worry (NKJV *fear not*) because I am with you. Don't be afraid, because I am your God. I will make you strong and will help you; I will support you with my (NLT victorious right hand).]

- IV. **Pic** [Vs 26 Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for **your heavenly Father feeds them.** (*takes care of* TEV) And **aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?**] YES!
- A. Jesus was saying God has built into His Creation the means by which birds are fed. He loves us more than birds and will take care of us, too, when we're doing His work.
 - B. Jesus is not saying that his followers may sit on a tree branch like a bird doing no work and simply looking to our Father to provide everything. The main way God provides for us is through work, // birds aren't idle; they work at looking for food God provides. So should we. God is the one who provides jobs, contracts, and opportunities. But there is all the difference in the world between working in anxiety and fear and doing it in trust in a loving Father.⁴
- V. [Vs. 27 **Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?**] NO! Most of what we worry about never happens and if it does somehow God is still with us no matter what happens. Our hope in Christ extends beyond this life into heaven and eternity.
- VI. **Pics** [Vs 28 "And **why worry** about your **clothing?** Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, ²⁹ yet Solomon in all his glory ("who was so rich."²) was not dressed as beautifully as they are. "King Solomon didn't have clothes as beautiful as any of these flowers."²]
- A. Flowers grow and bloom through a natural process. God sets in motion the process to make them beautiful and He will set in motion a process to take care of us.
- VII. [Vs. 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, **he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?**]
- A. Worrying shows we have "little faith" in what God can do.¹
 - B. Def. faith: Trust or confidence that God can or will do something. Jesus often rebuked people for lack of faith, vs. 30. [Mt. 8:26 (NLT) Jesus responded, "**Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!**" Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm. Mt. 14:31 (NLT) Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "**You have so little faith,**" Jesus said. "**Why did you doubt me?**" Mt. 16:8 (NLT) Jesus knew what they were saying, so he said, "**You have so little faith!** Why are you arguing...about having no bread?]
- VIII. [Vs 31 "So don't worry about these things, (*Brc make up your mind to stop worrying, and to stop saying*), 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' ³² **These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers** (*Brc people who don't know God or have not learned to trust God*) **but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.**] Since God knows our needs, why are we worrying in a vain attempt to take care of everything ourselves. "Worry becomes unbelief and is practical atheism." RH Mounce
- A. Unlike the unbeliever who's constantly concerned 1st about his needs and wants, the Lord's disciples should be concerned about God's kingdom and His righteousness. If we are Jesus promises to meet our needs and until He does, help us be content with what we have. This is the life of daily faith.¹
 - B. Misc.: There's a difference between needs and desires. God doesn't promise to give us everything we want. Also, timing is often an issue for God's provision.⁴

- IX. Summary: [Vs. 33 **Seek the Kingdom of God above all else** (*ESV seek 1st the KOG*), **and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.** ³⁴ **“So don’t worry about tomorrow,** for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.] Worry is borrowing tomorrow’s troubles. Most of what we worry about in the future never happens; we should face today’s troubles with today’s faith.
- A. *‘Seek God’s kingdom* (the rule of God on earth) *first’*, that is, “above all else.” In other words, Doing our part in establishing God’s kingdom should be “the thing we’re concerned with before our needs and desires”² “Righteousness” is doing what God has called us to do and obeying His commandments.
- B. Jesus said, if seeking the Kingdom of God and living righteously matters more to us than money and possessions, we can be confident He will take care of us.
- X. Conclusion: When we’re battling worry, we can find peace in prayer and God’s Word.
- A. **Philippians 4:6–7** (NLT) **Don’t worry** (*ESV be anxious*) **about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.** ⁷ **Then** you will experience **God’s peace**, which exceeds anything we can understand. **His peace will guard your hearts and minds** as you live in Christ Jesus. **E.g** Remodeling building during Covid. Borrowed \$5 mil., hadn’t sold old building
- XI. Response
- A. Prayer: I’m worried right now about something. I tend to worry a lot and need to pray more and meditate on God’s Word to find peace.
- B. Souls
- XII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.
1. Barbieri, L. A., Jr. (1985). [Matthew](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 33). Victor Books.
 2. Newman, B. M., & Stine, P. C. (1992). [A handbook on the Gospel of Matthew](#) (p. 185). United Bible Societies.
 3. Blomberg, C. (1992). [Matthew](#) (Vol. 22, p. 125). Broadman & Holman Publishers.
 4. Morris, L. (1992). [The Gospel according to Matthew](#) (p. 157). W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press.
 5. Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). In [Merriam-Webster’s collegiate dictionary](#). (Eleventh ed.). Merriam-Webster, Inc. (***)partial usage)
- XIII. Supplemental Material
- A. Jesus is calling for absolute commitment and complete devotion to God and his Kingdom rather than to earthly possessions. It continues the main theme of the preceding paragraph, that is, the necessity for complete devotion to the service of God²
- B. Then if we’re completely devoted to God, how will we take care of ourselves? Where does work fit in>

- C. Summary: If, on the other hand, we put trust in God first, God will take care of the rest of life. This renders worry unnecessary. “Worry” is the key word of this entire section, since it occurs six times³
- D. If a person is occupied with the things of God, the true Master, how will he care for his ordinary needs in life, such as food, clothing, and shelter? The Pharisees in their pursuit of material things had never learned to live by faith. Jesus told them and us **not to worry about** these things¹
- E. transitions such as “And so I tell you,” “I tell you, then,” or “So I tell you.”²
- F. “What is important in life is much more than food,” “There is much more to life than just food,” or “There is much more of importance to life than food.” Similarly the second part may be “There are things more important to our bodies than clothing.”²
- G. We are to rely on God, not on our money-making abilities. “*Do not be anxious about your life,*” Jesus says⁴
- H. The word *anxious* here is the same as in verse 25. In this context it means “worrying about,” “being concerned about,” or “being distracted by the cares about.”²
- I. “What is important in life is much more than food,” “There is much more to life than just food,” or “There is much more of importance to life than food.” Similarly the second part may be “There are things more important to our bodies than clothing.”²
- J. “You should not always be preoccupied by (or, worrying yourself about) things to keep alive with, such as food or drink.”²
- K. *do not be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive.*² Stop worrying about the clothes you are going to wear to keep your body warm.”²
- L. GeCL utilizes an exclamatory sentence: “And you are worth much more than all birds!” The intent or thrust of the question can be carried in several ways, including “You are certainly of more value than they,” “You are of more value than they, aren’t you?” and “Don’t you think you are worth more than they are?”²
- M. First, we are more valuable in God’s eyes because we are the only creatures made in his image. ³ We cannot help thinking of the perverse inversion of God’s values among people who campaign more for animal rights than for human rights (including especially those of unborn humans). E.g. Biblical vs. secular worldview: abortion ‘save the whales’ Pic
- N. The birds with their absence of care can teach people something about reliance on God. There is some disagreement about the meaning of Jesus’ verb, but clearly he was inviting his hearers to give attention to God’s creatures. *Birds* do not engage in agricultural processes like sowing crops or reaping them, but that does not mean that they starve. Nor, of course, does it mean that they are idle (is anything busier than a sparrow?); they search for their food. Jesus is not counseling his followers to be indolent. The processes of sowing and reaping are elementary for the careful farmer, as is the storing of the crop in *barns*. But although birds have no part in any such process, they are fed. Jesus does not say that “their” *heavenly Father* feeds them, but *your* heavenly Father; the very Father in whom the anxious have ceased to trust provides even for improvident birds. *You* is emphatic; the disciples stand in strong contrast with the birds, as having much greater worth. The question looks for a

- positive answer: of course they are worth more than the birds. And since they so obviously excel the well-cared-for birds, why should they not trust the Father?⁴
- O. *Toil nor spin* is translated “*make clothes for themselves*” by TEV. The picture is that of spinning fiber to make clothes. Both GeCL and FRCL translate in the tradition of TE
- V. Some translations have had a slight change from this by saying “They don’t work to²
- P. *O men of little faith* translates one word in the Greek text, a noun of address. TEV has “*What little faith you have.*” GeCL renders “Have more faith!” Elsewhere in the New Testament this word is used in **Matthew 8:26; 14:31; 16:8**; and.
- Q. Many translators will make this a short sentence such as “You have so little faith!” or “Your faith in God is so small!” Jesus is rebuking the people, and this tone should be communicated, however the sentence is translated.²
- R. However, in the present context it is apparently used in a derogatory sense of people who have not learned to trust in the God of the Jews. Brc translates “the people who don’t know God” (so also GeCL); NAB has “The unbelievers”;²
- S. *Seek* (TEV “*are ... concerned about*”) is given a dynamic translation by many: “running after” (NAB), “set their hearts on” (NJB), and “keep thinking about” (Brc). Elsewhere in the Gospel of Matthew this same Greek verb is found only in 12:39 and 16:4, where it is translated “ask for (of a miracle)” by TEV.

TEV Today’s English Version

GeCL German common language version

FRCL French common language version

TEV Today’s English Version

TEV Today’s English Version

GeCL German common language version

Brc Barclay

GeCL German common language version

NAB New American Bible

TEV Today’s English Version

NAB New American Bible

NJB New Jerusalem Bible

Brc Barclay

TEV Today’s English Version

- T. As a disciple cares each day for the things God has trusted to him, God, his **heavenly Father** (6:26, 32), cares for his daily needs.¹
- U. Kingdom points to rule, and the expression is to be understood in terms of doing the will of God now as well as looking for the coming of his final kingdom. The important thing for the disciple is to be constantly seeking to do the things that God wills, that is, to be submissive to the King. In this context seeking God's *righteousness* (not our righteousness)¹⁰⁶ will mean seeking that righteousness which God only can give (there is no thought that the believer by his own efforts can attain a righteousness that may fitly be called "God's"). This will include the "right standing" before God that comes about as the result of Christ's saving work and also the right conduct that befits the servant of God⁴
- V. (there is no thought that the believer by his own efforts can attain a righteousness that may fitly be called "God's"). This will include the "right standing" before God that comes about as the result of Christ's saving work and also the right conduct that befits the servant of God⁴
- W. The idea here can be expressed in several ways: "It's enough to be concerned each day with that day's problems," "Each day has enough problems without adding to them worries about what could happen tomorrow,"²
- X. Disciples are to *seek* as their first priority, not the things they would like to have or even the things they are sure they need, but God's *kingdom and righteousness*. *First* does not here mean "first in time" but "of first importance"; the kingdom is not one among many competing aims for the disciples, but that which comes first of all⁴
- Y. Life App #: Will I trust God to take care of me and prioritize what He tells me to do above making more money?
- Z. Encouraging daily dependence on God to meet my needs and grace when I have to wait or do without.
- AA. Proverbs 12:25 (NLT) Worry (*ESV anxiety*) weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up.
- BB. Scripture: Phil. 1:6, Pr 3; 5-6, Is 41:10
- CC. Psalm 94:17-19 (NCV) If the Lord had not helped me, I would have died in a minute.
¹⁸ I said, "I am about to fall," but, Lord, your love kept me safe. ¹⁹ I was very worried, but you comforted me and made me happy.

¹⁰⁶ Cf. Bruner, "at this point Matthew and Paul agree. The righteousness we are taught to seek here is an alien righteousness, the Father's righteousness, and not first of all our own" (p. 269). Filson asks, "is righteousness used here, as in Second Isaiah, of the vindicating salvation by which God saves those who seek him?" Hendriksen sees both imputed and imparted righteousness.