

# JESUS ON WORRY

Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> 2024

Pastor Gilbert Silva

Matthew 6:24-33 (NLT) “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”

<sup>25</sup> “That is why I tell you not to worry 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? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are?

<sup>27</sup> Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

<sup>28</sup> “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, <sup>29</sup> yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. <sup>30</sup> 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?

<sup>31</sup> “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

<sup>34</sup> “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

When it comes to money, most people worry about it and wish they had more. The more they have, the more ways they find to spend it. The more they spend, the less money they have. This motivates them to look for ways to make more of it. The more ways they find to generate it, the more ways they find to spend it. The more they have, the greater their fear of losing it, and this anxiety drives them to seek out new methods to diversify and invest in it. The more people invest, the higher the chance of losing it, and the greater the anxiety of not having enough to survive on, which drives them to work even harder to earn more, even at the expense of what matters most.

Whatever we rely on becomes our god. There is no faster way to lose faith than to invest it in something unreliable. Money is something that comes and goes.

In our passage, Jesus is not telling us that having money is evil. The truth is that God provides it as a means by which to live, but it must never become a master to be loved.

Matthew 6:24 (AMP) “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [money, possessions, fame, status, or whatever is valued more than the Lord].

**Bible illustration:** The rich young man (Mark 10:17-23)

As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”<sup>18</sup> “Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked. “Only God is truly good.”<sup>19</sup> But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.’”<sup>20</sup> “Teacher,” the man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.”

<sup>21</sup> Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. “There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him. “Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”<sup>22</sup> At this the man’s face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.<sup>23</sup> Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!”

Did you notice that Jesus didn’t start with the first commandment? “You shall have no other gods before me”. This was the one commandment that this young man didn’t keep. Money and possessions had become his master.

**The point:** “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”

Proverbs 11:28 (AMP) He who leans on *and* trusts in *and* is confident in his riches will fall, But the righteous [who trust in God’s provision] will flourish like a *green* leaf.

It’s so easy to fall into the trap of seeing money as the be-all and end-all of life. Jesus teaches us that relying on our ability to make money and not on God only leads to worry.

Matthew 6:25 (NLT) “That is why I tell you not to worry 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?”

Everyday necessities would have been the most pressing concerns for Jesus’ listeners.

They had given up everything to follow Him. Some had left their businesses, others the security of their families and others had risked everything to invest in Christ and His mission.

Remember our illustration about the rich young ruler? The story goes on with a reaction from Peter...

Mark 10:28-30 (NLT) Then Peter began to speak up. "We've given up everything to follow you," he said. <sup>29</sup> "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, <sup>30</sup> will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property, along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life.

Jesus makes it plain that when we serve God, we shall not only be provided for on this side of eternity, but our rewards will extend beyond this world.

A God-centered life is a worry-free life. This is what Jesus wants His followers to understand.

Worry is a like thief that will try to rob us of our life by clouding our view of God. If we are to walk free from worry then we must understand that God values life and He takes care of the life he values.

There are several things in this passage Jesus says about worry.

Worry muddies our vision of the Heavenly Father. It overlooks the worth God places on our life. Worry is a waste of time, to worry is to calculate with God.

### **Worry muddies our vision of God**

God values life! We are important to God.

Matthew 6:25 (NLT) "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?"

Matthew 6:26 (GNB) Look at the birds: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth much more than birds?

1 Peter 5:7 (CEV) God cares for you, so turn all your worries over to him.

### **Worry is a waste of time and energy**

Matthew 6:27 (NLT) Can any of you live a bit longer by worrying about it?

(GW) "Can any of you add a single hour to your life by worrying?"

Worry is the most ineffective use of our time and thoughts:

- It diverts our focus away from matters of higher priority
- It prevents us from moving forward
- It robs us of living in present peace for fear of future negative possibilities.

“Unproductive worry is like rocking in a rocking chair: We can spend lots of time and energy doing it, but it doesn’t get us anywhere.” - unknown

Worrying cannot add a single minute to our lives. The truth is that worrying just shortens our lives and weakens our health.

### **Worry is the result of taking our eyes off God**

Matthew 6:28-30 (GW) And why are you troubled about clothing? See the flowers of the field, how they come up; they do no work, they make no thread: But I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God gives such clothing to the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is put into the oven, will he not much more give you clothing, O you of little faith?

Worry calls into question God's sovereignty, omniscience, omnipotence, gentle love, and care for His own. It emphasizes on human abilities rather than God's presence, power, grace, or favor.

Bad theology equals high anxiety.

### **What can we do to fight off worry?**

#### **Evaluate our theology**

Worry can only co-exist with an unbiblical view of God

What must ask ourselves:

- Do I believe that He knows what I have need of?
- Do I believe that He an ever-present help in time of need?
- Do I believe that He really does care for me?
- DO I believe that He is working all things for my good?
- Do I believe that He is working in me both to will and to do of His good pleasure?
- Do I believe that He is the author and finisher of my faith?

**Redirect your energy and adjust your priorities.**

Matthew 6:33 (NLT) Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

**Refuse to take a loan on tomorrow's troubles**

Mat 6:34 (NLT) "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

**Conclusion:** Whatever we rely on becomes our god. There is no faster way to lose faith than to invest it in something or someone who is unreliable. God is faithful, reliable, steadfast and true. He will never forsake or abandon us.

Proverbs 11:28 (AMP) He who leans on *and* trusts in *and* is confident in his riches will fall, But the righteous [who trust in God's provision] will flourish like a *green* leaf.