

## Matthew 6:25-34

### Introduction

#### I. Matthew 6:25-30

##### A. Jesus Commands: “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious...” (25a)

###### 1. “Therefore”

- ✓ \_\_\_\_ we’re ever going to start laying up treasures in heaven (19-21) and generously giving away our excess (22-23) and serve God instead of money and possessions (24), then we are going to have to \_\_\_\_\_ being \_\_\_\_\_.

###### 2. Life (food and drink); Body (clothes)

- a. Matthew 6:11 – Give us this day our daily bread.
- b. 1 Timothy 6:8 – But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.
- c. Jesus teaches that we must not worry about the \_\_\_\_\_ physical necessities for life and survival.
- d. If we’re always \_\_\_\_\_ our excess, we also may begin to worry more about the basic provisions for our daily needs.

##### B. Jesus Reasons (25b-30)

###### 1. “Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?” (25b)

- a. “Does not life \_\_\_\_\_ of more than food, and is not the body \_\_\_\_\_ more than clothes?”
- b. Even though we need material things to sustain our life, our life \_\_\_\_\_ the *material*.
  - i. Luke 12:15, 20 – 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... God said to [the rich man], ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’”
  - ii. John 4:31-34 – Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”
  - iii. Matthew 4:4 – Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

- c. Even though our bodies need material provisions, even our bodies serve a purpose that is \_\_\_\_\_ all *material* concerns.
  - i. Philippians 1:20 – It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.
  - ii. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
- d. When we worry and obsess even over the *basic necessities* of food and clothing, it can show that we have an overly \_\_\_\_\_ view of life (cf. verse 33).

2. “Look at the birds of the air...” (26-27)

- a. “Look” – \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Jesus uses an argument from the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ (“how much more”), so that He might *inspire* \_\_\_\_\_!
- c. After all, “which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”
- d. If the birds could be anxious, would their future be any more \_\_\_\_\_ than it already is?
- e. Worry is utterly \_\_\_\_\_!
- f. Faith in God is the only \_\_\_\_\_ thing.

3. “Consider the lilies of the field...” (28-30)

- a. “Lily” = \_\_\_\_\_
- b. “Consider” – \_\_\_\_\_
- c. In verse 30, “grass” reminds us that the “lily” is still *just* a \_\_\_\_\_. So how “*much more...*”
- d. Consider the wildflowers, Jesus says, and let them teach you the wisdom of \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. If the flowers could be \_\_\_\_\_, do you think their clothing would turn out any more exquisitely than it already does?

4. **Jesus** told us to “look at the birds” and “consider the wildflowers”!

- ✓ “O you of little faith”
  - i. Jesus draws our attention to the birds and the flowers not just to comfort and encourage us, but to \_\_\_\_\_ us.
  - ii. Worry and anxiety is nothing more than the *sin* of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - iii. Amazingly and wonderfully, worry and anxiety are simply not \_\_\_\_\_ for the Christian!

II. Matthew 6:31-33

A. Jesus Commands: “Therefore do not be anxious...” (31)

B. Jesus Reasons (32-33)

1. “For the Gentiles seek [first]...” (32; cf. v. 33)
  - a. The Gentiles are those who might say that the life is \_\_\_\_\_ than food and the body \_\_\_\_\_ than clothing (25b).
  - b. **For this reason** the Gentiles are \_\_\_\_\_.
2. “But [you] seek first...”
  - a. Worry is evidence that we are being consumed by the things of this \_\_\_\_\_ rather than the things of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. When we’re truly seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, we will see that while food and clothing are essential, they are also \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. We will be finally set \_\_\_\_\_ from all anxiety and all worry!
  - d. Romans 12:1-2 – I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

III. Matthew 6:34

A. Jesus Commands: “Therefore do not be anxious...” (34a)

B. Jesus Reasons (34b)

1. Why end on such a “negative” note?
2. Jesus is not teaching that we’ll always have a life of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The ultimate point is not that we’ll always have \_\_\_\_\_ to eat or that we’ll always be \_\_\_\_\_ clothed.
  - a. 1 Corinthians 4:11 – To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless...

- b. 2 Corinthians 11:27 – ...in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.
- 4. Philippians 4:11-13 – Not that I am speaking of being in need, for *I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content*. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. *I can do all things through him who strengthens me*.

**Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” (John 20:27).**

### **Teaching our Children**

NOTE TO PARENTS: I have tried to keep the following questions on more of a positive note. For example, I don't bring up the fact that when we worry about food and clothes, this is sinful unbelief and focusing more on the things of earth than on the things of the kingdom. The reason I have done this is that it seems to me children are generally not worrying about these things yet and I don't want to be the one who plants seeds of worry in their minds! The most important thing to do at this stage is to instill in our child's mind that it is *God* who clothes us and feeds us. It is *God* who takes care of us. We *always* trust in *Him*.

- Q. Why is it sometimes hard for us to stop storing up more than we need and start giving away our “extra” (cf. last week)?
- A. Because we could start *worrying* that we might not have enough for ourselves.
- Q. *Three times* Jesus tells us not to be what?
- A. *Three times* Jesus tells us not to be anxious or worry.
- Q. What does Jesus tell us not to be anxious or worry *about*?
- A. Jesus tells us that we don't ever need to worry about the things that we truly *need* (like food and clothing).
- Q. What were two examples Jesus gave to show why we shouldn't worry?
- A. Read and discuss Matthew 6:26-30 and the examples of the birds of the air and the flowers of the field.
- Q. What lesson should we learn from the birds and the flowers?
- A. If God feeds the birds and clothes the flowers, *how much more* will He take care of us – His children! The birds and the flowers teach us to have a strong *faith* in *God*.
- Q. Instead of seeking after food and clothes as the most important things, what should we seek after *first of all*?
- A. ~ We should seek *first* after God's kingdom. We should seek *first* after God's will and God's ways. (SEE Scriptures under I. B. 1. b.&c.)
- ~ We should remember that even though we do need food and clothes, the most important purpose of our lives and bodies is to glorify God and obey Him joyfully.
- ~ When we know the most important purpose of our lives and bodies, we probably won't feel like worrying about things like food and clothes!