

What Really Matters in This World (and the next)

Sermon 24 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 6:14-34

I. The Heart and Forgiveness 14-15

A. Forgiveness is Demanded.

The parable of Matthew 18

B. Does responsibility rely totally on the person who was sinned against? Luke 17:3-5

1. Sins -- Rebuke him
2. If he Repents – Forgive him
3. If he continues to sin – and continues to repent – forgive him.

Gal. 6:1 – Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass – you who are spiritual restore him considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

II. The Heart and Fasting -- 6:16-18

A. Fasting is Voluntary

B. Fasting under the OT Economy

There was only one mandated fast each year in the Old Economy – that was on the Day of Atonement. (Lev. 16:29-34, Num. 29:7-11) “afflict your souls”.

C. The Reward

Praise of men – you have your reward.
Praise of God – and then you are rewarded openly.

Observations regarding fasting.

1. It is a helpful private spiritual discipline when done properly.
2. There are no mandated “fast days” since the passing away of the Day of Atonement.
Colossians 2:16-17
3. A church may call for days of fasting for a special occasions or various reasons, but again, it is always voluntary.

III. The Heart and Riches 6:19-24

A. What is your True Treasure? 19-21

Like covetousness – this is a heart matter, and not always visible to others.

B. Two Masters 22-24

IV. The Heart and Anxiety 6:25-34

To Paraphrase Sinclair Ferguson's comments on verses 25-34

1. Look at the whole of Life.

The things that should be your servants may become your master!

2. Remember the sovereignty of God

3. Remember the Lord's Generosity

Satan would have us doubt God's goodness.
Satan would have us doubt God's provision.
Satan still loves to say, "Has God said?"

4. Seek first the Kingdom

Becky

Pam

Pat

Evening service here – next week the Quarterly at Redeemer in S.B.

Wednesday night

John Gill on Matthew 6:27 -- Is it height or life-span?

Which of you by taking thought

As Christ argued before, from the unnecessariness of anxious thoughts and cares, about the provisions of life; so here, from the unprofitableness of them; it being impossible for a man, with all his care and thought, to

add one cubit unto his stature,

or "to his age"; so the word is rendered, ([John 9:21-23](#)) ([11:11](#)) to the days of his life, he is so solicitous about; for a cubit may as well be applied to a man's age, as an "hand's breadth"

is to his days, ([Psalms 39:5](#)) . Nor is it so reasonable to think, that Christ should be speaking of making such an addition to a man's height; though that, to be sure, is an impossible thing: since the far greater part of Christ's hearers must be come to their full growth, and could not hope to have any addition made to their height; though they might hope to add to their days; much less such a monstrous one as that of a cubit, and which is a strong reason against the other sense of the word, and for this: for our Lord is speaking of something very small, which men cannot do; as appears from what Luke says, ([Luke 12:26](#)) "If ye then be not able to do that which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?" Whereas, to add a cubit to a man's height, is a great deal:

``the stature of a middling man (says ^{es} Bartenora) is three cubits."

And to add one more, makes a large addition to his stature; but to apply this to a man's age, is a small matter, and yet is what men cannot do: the sense of the words is this, that no man, by all the care and thought he can make use of, is ever able to add one cubit, or the least measure to his days; he cannot lengthen out his life one year, one month, one day, one hour; no, not one moment.

It's amazing to me to think that many evangelicals think the OT Temple must be rebuilt one day in Jerusalem.

THIS – in spite of the fact that Jesus declared HIMSELF to be the TRUE TEMPLE.

Destroy this temple and in 3 days I will build it up.

It is possible that the current nation of Israel may one day get the money and the power to rebuild a replica of the Temple.

It is also possible that the current nation of Israel – who denies Jesus Christ as Messiah – could go out of existence.

Does God promise a rebuilt Temple? No. It is a misunderstanding and misinterpretation of Scripture.

If that happens (and I don't expect it to happen)
IF that happens – we should not rejoice.

It will be no more to the glory of God – than the Muslim
“Dome of the Rock” that sits there today.

And if they ever resumed animal sacrifices:

Even though it is argued “they would be memorial sacrifices” they will be just as odious as the heathen blood sacrifices made to Satan.

To rebuild the Temple is to mock Christ.
To sacrifice is to mock the blood of the true lamb.

Now, we are dealing with matters where good men disagree.

Our dispensational brethren – are just that – brethren.

We must not hate them.

We should not despise them.

But we sincerely believe their understanding of all of this is very very wrong.

And some – not all – but some have gone so far in their thinking that they will declare that Jews can be saved – without believing in Jesus Christ.

The Roman Catholic Church agrees, in a statement issued by the Vatican as reported in the National Catholic Reporter of Dec. 14, 2015.

How God will save the Jews if they do not explicitly believe in Christ is “an unfathomable divine mystery,” but one which must be affirmed since Catholics believe that God is faithful to his promises and therefore never revoked his covenant with the Jewish people.

This is more understandable – from a church that believes in salvation by Faith AND works – than among evangelicals who profess to believe in faith alone. These evangelicals should also profess AND CHRIST ALONE. (and of course, many evangelicals DO NOT believe Jews are saved by adhering to the OT).

