

Message #21**Matthew 6:25-34**

When Jesus Christ reigns on earth, what a wonderful, worry free existence that will be for all of God's people. However, until He reigns on earth, there will probably be times in our lives when we will worry about money. Money is an important theme of the New Testament. One commentator observed that one out of every ten verses in the New Testament deals with the subject of money. He said there are approximately 500 verses that deal with the subject of prayer, a little less than 500 verses that deal with the subject of faith and more than 2000 verses that deal with the subject of money.

Is it wrong for us to have insurance policies? Is it wrong for us to have a pension plan? Is it wrong to invest in the future? Is that what Jesus is talking about here? Is Jesus Christ advocating a thriftless, reckless, thoughtless life when it comes to monetary things?

A key word which shows up six times in these verses (**6:25, 27, 28, 31, 34 (twice)**) is the word "anxious." According to Gerhard Kittel (Vol. 4, pp. 589-592), this particular Greek word means to be so focused on something that one is actually worried and consumed to the point that one is tormented to the point where one cannot even sleep.

Jesus Christ did not want His disciples spending their valuable years of life totally worried about or anxiously consumed with a focus on money. In fact, He did not even want them worried about the basic necessities of life. The primary point of these verses is this:

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT GOD KNOWS US, LOVES US AND HAS PROMISED TO CARE FOR US, WE ARE NOT TO SPEND OUR LIVES CONTINUALLY WORRIED ABOUT AND CONSUMED WITH MONEY OR MATERIAL THINGS.

I want to point out that the tense of the verb "anxious" in **verses 25, 27, 28** is present. Jesus is talking about a continual anxiety that is worried sick about and totally focused on money. This is not a discussion about one's responsibility to work and to care for one's family. This does not mean that one should not be concerned about paying one's bills. This does not mean that employers should not be concerned about their business or about caring for their employees. Jesus Christ is challenging His disciples to not be continually focused on and worried about money.

REASON #1 – God's people must not be anxious about material or monetary things because God will personally care for you because of your value to Him. **6:25-26**

Jesus wanted His disciples to realize that they are so valuable to God that He knows our basic needs. To illustrate His point, Jesus challenges us to look at the birds of the air. Birds do not work the ground, they do not stockpile huge sums of wealth, yet God sees that they are fed. Jesus' point is since God cares for birds, He certainly will care for us, who are worth far more than the birds.

REASON #2 – God’s people must not be anxious about material or monetary things because we cannot add anything to our lives by being worried. **6:27**

If you worry, you cannot add anything to your life, but you can subtract years from your life. Dr. Mayo of the Mayo Clinic said, “Worry affects the circulation, the heart, the glands and the whole nervous system. I have never met a man or known a man to die of overwork, but I have known a lot who died of worry.” Two major diseases: 1) stomach ulcers; 2) coronary thrombosis.

REASON #3 – God’s people must not be anxious about material or monetary things because God has promised that He knows what we need and will provide it. **6:28-32**

Pagans are constantly worried about money matters. That is their entire focus of life. This issue becomes a real issue of faith. Jesus uses flowers as an illustration. God provides for a temporal flower so that it grows to become beautiful. Not even Solomon looked as lovely as a flower, plus flowers are plants that eventually wither and are burned. If God so provides for a temporal flower, will He not abundantly provide for and care for His own people? This becomes a question of whether or not we truly believe God will provide.

REASON #4 – God’s people must not be anxious about material or monetary things because our focus is to be on God’s righteousness. **6:33-34**

God has promised that if we seek first His work and righteousness, He will specifically see to it that He adds things to us. This is a critical “if.” If we will put God first and seek His Word and will first, He has absolutely promised that He will provide for us. He will add things to our existence.

Each day of our lives is a day to focus on the righteousness of God, not how much we are going to worry about tomorrow. Someone once said, “Today is the tomorrow that we worried about yesterday.”

The Apostle Paul gives us an interesting Grace Age principle in Philippians 4:6-7–“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Now notice carefully what anxiety prayer promises to do. It does not promise to guarantee a fulfillment of the prayer. It promises to bring a divine calm. It promises to liberate one from worry.

So when we find ourselves anxious, we need to pray for it is prayer that can set us free from anxiety.