

"The Proper View of Wealth"

Part 7

Matthew 6:19-34

Introduction: In our study of the Sermon on the Mount we have been in Matthew 6:19-34 where Jesus is instructing His disciples about the subject of wealth. In verses 19-24 Jesus spoke on the subject of investments. The people of Jesus' day would often take their extra wealth and they would invest it in one of 3 commodities: garments, grain or precious metals. When they invested in these 3 commodities they then had 3 things which they needed to be concerned about: moths eating the garments, rodents eating the grain, and thieves stealing their precious metals.

Jesus encouraged them to invest in eternal treasures instead of earthly treasures for if they would invest in eternal treasures then their investments would be secure. In our study we looked at the meaning of eternal treasures which is people. In other words Jesus was encouraging His disciples to invest their extra wealth into the lives of people instead of using it to stock pile stuff here on this earth.

Now we must keep in mind that the motive for the stock piling in Jesus day was worry about the future. As we have already considered how the people of Palestine relied greatly on the winter snows for survival. The snow would melt in the spring and would give them water to drink, water for the crops, and with the crops came work, and the work provided money to buy clothing. If the snows did not come life could be very difficult. Therefore, much of the stock piling was driven by worry about what the next year would bring.

Now there was nothing wrong with having something saved for a "rainy day" that is wisdom to prepare in case of an emergency down the road.

But when "stuff" is stock piled because of WORRY about what the future holds then there are 2 major problems which follow right along with that:

1. The person who is stock piling is trusting in his or her stock pile and not God.
2. The person who is worried about what tomorrow holds is very reluctant to take from their stock pile to help a person who is in need.

So worrying about the future causes us to trust in our stock piles and it makes us "tight fisted" with what we have. Then it can consume our thoughts because not only will we worry about tomorrow but we will then worry about losing the stock pile we have.

That is why Jesus went on starting in Matthew 6:25 and going through Matthew 6:34 to explain why His disciples were not to be consumed with worry. In this section we read the phrase "take no thought" which simply means "do not worry".

1. God is our Father

Notice Matthew 6:25-26

Jesus statement in verse 25 is very important when He said "life is more than meat and the body than raiment". What He was saying here was that life is not only sustained by food and clothing but life is sustained by God. The people He was talking to were often consumed with the worry for food, water, and clothing. This verse would have shocked them because that was the concern of everyone in that day. They needed to get free from the power of worry and they needed to learn to trust God. The worry over the basics of life was preventing them from serving God. You see it was then like it is today. If we get

caught up in the worry of tomorrow then in our desperation to make enough for tomorrow we are too busy to get involved for God.

2 Timothy 2:3-4

³ *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

⁴ *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

In verse 4 we can see what happens to the soldier who gets caught up in living for this world and that is he or she becomes "entangled" and when you are entangled you are restricted and cannot serve God. Paul tells Timothy here there are going to be hard times but we must trust God in the midst of those times and refrain from getting entangled with the cares of life.

So in our text in Matthew 6 Jesus points to the birds of His day as an illustration and reminds those with Him on that day as well as us how the life of the birds are sustained by God. He then turns that thought to all believers and simply asked the question, "Are ye not much better than they?" Jesus was asking every one of us who are believers to consider our position in God's family. The birds have a place in God's creation but we have a place in God's family and in His Kingdom.

2. God is Sovereign over Our Future

Notice Matthew 6:27

Jesus asked another question which was, "Who can add to their lifespan by worrying about the future?" The bottom line of what He was saying here is that worry accomplishes nothing. Last week I shared with you some verses that show our days and months are determined by God and we cannot exceed the boundary set by God.

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Job 14:1, 2, 5

Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.

² He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

⁵ Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;

We are going to live for the days which have been appointed to us and we will then die. We cannot worry years on to our lives but worry will erase years from our lives.

I. The Remedy for Financial Worry

Part 3

As we continue on in our study tonight we shall see another illustration which Jesus gave to His disciples and to us to help us see how senseless worry really is.

Notice Matthew 6:28-30

Here in these verses Jesus points to the "lilies of the field". With that statement He was referring to all the wild flowers which grew in the fields around Palestine. Just like the wild daisies, buttercups, dandelions and many other wild flowers which grow in our land today, there were flowers which grew wild in Jesus day. He asked His audience to consider how the wild flowers never toiled, nor did they spin, but yet they were covered in greater beauty than the wealthiest and the wisest man who had ever lived and that was Solomon. Even Solomon in all of his royal apparel could not compare to the wild flowers for they far exceeded him in the beauty of their raiment.

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Let us remember here that clothing was one of the 3 great concerns for the people of Jesus' day. Jesus said that God is the One who clothes them and they are here today and cast into the oven tomorrow.

Let me explain what He means when He says they were cast into the oven. In those days the women cooked in clay ovens. When they were preparing a meal they would build a fire and place the clay oven over the fire to warm it both on the outside and on the inside. It is the same as preheating your oven today before you bake something. The clay oven had a door on the front and when it was nice and warm on the inside you would place your food in there to cook it. Now the process of preheating the clay of could take a while. It would take time to heat the clay the entire way through because the clay would have been thick. So to speed things up the women would often go into the field and gather the "wild flowers" along with the weeds that were dead and dry and they would bind them into a bunch and place them inside the clay oven and then light the dry flowers. This would speed up the process of heating the inside of the oven. I guess it was their version of a microwave. This is exactly what Jesus was speaking of when He said the lilies were here today and cast into the oven tomorrow.

The idea is that the wild flowers are temporary but God's people are eternal and God provides a covering for the temporary flowers will He not then provide for His children? Therefore why should we worry about clothing or really why should we worry about anything we face? We are God's children and we are eternal therefore He will provide all we need.

Notice Matthew 6:30 again.

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Jesus uses a very interesting statement here at the end of this verse. He refers to His disciples as "***ye of little faith***". This statement is used 5 times in the Bible and in each of the times it is used it is because someone is worried about food, clothing, or lifespan. It is found in:

Matthew 8:26 -lifespan

Matthew 16:8 - food

Matthew 14:31 - lifespan

Matthew 6:30 - food, water, clothing

Luke 12:28 - food, water, clothing

When we consider the 5 passages where this statement is used by our Lord then we can see that when we lack faith in our lives it always has to do with the faithfulness of our Heavenly Father. Every time worry comes into our minds it is because we lack faith in the care of our Heavenly Father.

Let's consider to the next reason Jesus gives as to why we are not to worry.

3. Worry Contrasts with our Position

Notice Matthew 6:31-32a

In verse 32 Jesus tells us that worry is natural for the *Gentiles* and the *Gentiles* here refers to all who are not believers.

It is natural for the heathen to worry for they have no Heavenly Father. They have no idea what the future holds for them. We know what the future holds for us. There is nothing that we face in life that

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can hinder God's provisions for us for we are His children and He is greater than anything problem we face.

Let me show you something which we can draw comfort from.

Romans 8:34-37

³⁴ Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

No matter what we face Paul says we are more than conquerors; meaning that whatever we face is actually used for our good and God's glory.

Romans 8:28-29

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Every trial we face is used by our Father to conform us into the image of His Son. Basically what Paul is saying here is this, "Every trial we

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face in life does not harm us but instead it strengthens us because it causes us to grow deeper in our spiritual walk."

Let's get back to our text now. The unsaved world does not have that assurance and so they have every right to worry about tomorrow. If we die tomorrow we will be free from the struggles of this world but if the unsaved person dies tomorrow their suffering has just begun and will continue for all eternity. Therefore, the Gentiles are constantly focused upon the basics which are needed for survival in this world.

Notice Matthew 6:32b

Here we see Jesus points to the "omniscience" of our Heavenly Father and by that I mean that He is "all knowing". Did you know that God knows what we need before we know what we need?

Matthew 6:8

⁸ *Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.*

Conclusion:

Our standing with God is seen really well in the Old Testament story of Mephibosheth.

Mephibosheth was the son of Jonathan which made him the grandson of Saul. Before David had become king of Israel he had become best friends with Jonathan. Jonathan knew that David was going to become king one day. He then made David promise to show kindness to his family after David became king. Let us step into a conversation between David and Jonathan at the time the covenant was made between them.

1 Samuel 20:11-15

¹¹ And Jonathan said unto David, Come, and let us go out into the field. And they went out both of them into the field.

¹² And Jonathan said unto David, O LORD God of Israel, when I have sounded my father about to morrow any time, or the third day, and, behold, if there be good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and shew it thee;

¹³ The LORD do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father to do thee evil, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the LORD be with thee, as he hath been with my father.

¹⁴ And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not:

¹⁵ But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the LORD hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.

David made a promise to show kindness to Jonathan and his family after he became king. At the end of 1 Samuel Saul and his sons, including Jonathan were all killed in a battle with the Philistines. After David was crowned king he remembered the covenant he had made with Jonathan.

2 Samuel 9:1

And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

Let us notice the answer he received.

2 Samuel 9:2-3

² And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he.

³ And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.

The son of Jonathan was Mephibosheth and he was crippled. Notice how he was injured.

2 Samuel 4:4

⁴ And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

He was crippled as he was dropped by his nurse. Let us notice where he lived.

2 Samuel 9:4

⁴ And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar.

Mephibosheth is a picture of you and I. He was crippled in a fall just as we have been spiritually crippled by the fall of Genesis 3. He lived in Lodebar which means "barren" which is a picture of the unbeliever's life. There was no fruit in our lives before we were saved, we were spiritually barren.

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Now watch the mercy David shows Mephibosheth.

2 Samuel 9:6-7

⁶ Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!

⁷ And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

He did not deserve to live but because of the covenant between his father and the king he would not only live but he would dwell in the king's house. Mephibosheth would never need to worry because he would eat at the king's table the rest of his life. That is a picture of us. There was a covenant made between God the Father and His Son (the King) 2000 years ago. Jesus satisfied the wrath of God when He died on the cross and now all who trust Him as their Savior are born into the family of God. We are children of the King and we never need to worry.