

"The Proper View of Wealth"

Part 8

Matthew 6:19-34

Introduction: Tonight we come to the closing lesson on Matthew 6. We have been looking at the words of our Savior in the Greatest Sermon that was ever preached. In the section we have been studying the past 7 weeks we have been looking closely at Jesus preaching on the subject of wealth. In Matthew 6:19-24 Jesus addressed personal investments. In those verses He spoke about where to invest that which is left over after the basic needs of life are met. He spoke of the concerns of investing in the things of this world and how those concerns can be something which consume us and keep us from sharing what we have with those who have a need.

He then spoke of investing in eternal riches which is the lives of people. When we invest our wealth in the lives of people there are no concerns about loss for every dollar invested in eternity will be laid up in heaven for our arrival. Investing in eternity is the most secure investment we can make.

Jesus then went on in **Matthew 6:25-34** to address the subject of worry. In Jesus day there was a concern from year to year for the basic needs of life. They worried about food, water, and clothing. They believed survival rested on the amount of snow they received through the winter. The mountain snows provided water to drink, water to grow crops, and when there were crops there was work and if they worked they had money so they could buy clothing. Without the winter snows life could be very difficult. The problem was the people believed their

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lives depended upon their preparation for the future. Instead of trusting in God for their needs they were trusting in the weather or in their stockpile. Jesus explained that life was more than food and clothing.

Matthew 6:25

²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Jesus wanted them to learn to trust in God for He was the Sustainer of life.

Application:

There is nothing wrong with us having a savings account or investments but we are not to trust in our investments. God is the sustainer of our lives and we are to trust Him. To place our trust in our investments here on earth causes 2 problems in our lives:

- 1. It keeps us from relying upon God.**

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

- 2. It keeps us from sharing with others who have needs.**

1 Timothy 6:17-19

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¹⁷ Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

¹⁸ That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate [share or distribute freely];

¹⁹ Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Jesus went on in this section and gave 3 reasons why worry should have no place in the life of the believer:

1. God is our heavenly Father. (6:26)
2. Worry will not add years to our lives. (6:27)
3. Worry contrasts with our position in God's family. (6:32)

I. The Remedy for Financial Worry Part 4

Tonight as we continue our look at this passage we will see a promise from our Heavenly Father on which we can hang every one of our worries.

A. Get Your Priorities in Order

Notice Matthew 6:33

When we read this verse we see first of all that the verse begins with a contrast. The idea within this contrast is very important.

I want you to think with me for a moment; worry really does 2 things to the one who is consumed by it:

1. It will cause you to invest all of your time trying to gain more of this world's goods.

There are many believers today who have no time to get involved for God because their focus is completely upon the wealth of this world. It happened to a fellow laborer of Paul's.

2 Timothy 4:10a

¹⁰ For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world,

There have been many believers who were once very effective for God but along they became consumed with the wealth of this world and are no longer exercising their spiritual gifts.

2 Timothy 2:4

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 2 Timothy Paul portrays the believer as a soldier in the midst of a battle. Any soldier who is in a battle makes sure he is not entangled with anything which will restrict him. As believers we are in a spiritual battle and we are not to be restricted by being consumed with the wealth of this world.

2. It causes many people to be dishonest as they face the tests of this life.

Proverbs 30:7-9

⁷ Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die:

⁸ Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

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⁹Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

When a person is consumed with worry about the needs of life they are far more likely to be dishonest. When they see what they believe to be an opportunity to get ahead by being dishonest they will lie, cheat or steal. I have known people who have preyed on the generous giving of others to get financial gain. I have known people to lie in order to get financial gain and when they were confronted they attempted to justify what they did because of the situation they faced.

Let me just stop here and say that we need to be very careful when we are faced with trying financial situations.

There are 2 verses that we must keep in mind.

1 Timothy 6:10

¹⁰For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Jeremiah 17:9

⁹The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

So, the bottom line is this: concern for the wealth of this world will cause you to spend your energy chasing after more wealth and it will cause you to compromise your integrity.

Now notice Matthew 6:33a

In contrast to spending our time chasing the wealth of this world we are to place at the front of our lives 2 daily goals. Jesus says to, "**Seek first**":

- a. "**the kingdom of God**" - Our energy in this life as believers is to be spent on God's kingdom FIRST. This raises a question then, "What does it mean to seek God's Kingdom?" To seek the Kingdom of God is to live for eternity and not the "here and now". It is to see the situations we face through spiritual eyes. It is to know that whatever we face in life has been permitted by God and in every one of those situations (no matter how painful or trying it may be) we are more than conquerors for every situation is used for our good. When we grasp that truth then we are free from all worry about the needs of life and we are then able to focus upon God and His Kingdom.
- b. "**and his righteousness**" - The thought within this phrase is really great. When we find ourselves in situations which try our faith we are not to compromise our morals but instead we are to focus upon living in obedience to God's Word. The temptation will come to compromise in order to help alleviate the pain of the situation we face but Jesus says we are to seek His righteousness. In other words, no matter how difficult the situation we face we must not compromise. This again requires that we live our lives focused upon eternity.

Notice the words of Jesus to the church of Smyrna.

Revelation 2:10

¹⁰ Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall

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have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Let me also add that to seek the Kingdom and His righteousness is a matter of the heart. In order for us to live completely focused upon eternity God must have control of the heart. He must be the Authority within our heart. I cannot make you live that way. You must want that in your own personal life. I can take that even deeper and remind us that in order for you and me to be spiritually minded we must be Spirit controlled. By that I mean we must not be controlled by our own desires and our own lusts. There must be the dying to self in order to be controlled by the Spirit.

To seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness is easy when you and I have all we need. But if we look at these 2 statements in the context of the passage we are to do this when we do not know what tomorrow holds or when we don't know where the next meal will come from. The context of the passage is overcoming worry and we only worry when we don't have what we need or when we focus upon the cares of tomorrow.

B. Rest in God's Promise

Notice Matthew 6:33b

What a wonderful promise we find here. When we focus upon eternity and we live for the Lord placing His Kingdom and His righteousness at the front of our lives, He promises to meet our every need.

We need to grasp what is being said here. When we place His kingdom and His righteousness at the top of our list of priorities then our needs are God's responsibility. We are His children and He promises that He will provide.

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Let me show you a passage that we will get deeper into as the weeks go on in our study.

Matthew 7:7-11

⁷ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

⁸ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

⁹ Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

¹⁰ Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

¹¹ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Notice Matthew 6:34

Here Jesus tells us to focus on one day at a time.

Conclusion:

There is so much to be said in regards to this study on wealth but time will not permit. There is however something that we need to know about how God works in our lives. There are going to be times when our faith is tested and God permits those times in our lives. Don't think that when you place God' Kingdom at the top of your list there will never again be any difficult times because there will be. The Christian life is all about spiritual growth and we all know that fruit grows better

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in the fertile soil of the valleys better than on the mountain tops.
Therefore, there will be many valley experiences in our lives.

John 6:5-6

⁵ *When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?*

⁶ **And this he said to prove him:** *for he himself knew what he would do.*

When the testing of our faith comes we must remember the period of testing is a workshop which God has chosen to use to teach us some lessons we would never learn apart from the workshop. This is important to keep in mind because when we enter these workshops we want out right away. When we see someone close to us in one of these workshops we often want to step in and rescue them so they will never want for anything again. I want to be very careful with what I am about to say but it needs to be said: it is our responsibility to help someone who has a need when we have the resources to do so. But there is also a fine line that we must be careful not to cross. Since God uses these workshops to teach His people some very valuable lessons we must be careful not to interfere with what He is doing.

Illustration: Many years ago when our girls were little my wife and I ran out of money and we also ran out of firewood for heat. I remember shoveling a path up on the mountain in 12 inches of snow and cutting a tree down, sawing it up, loading it on one of the kid's sleds and pulled it down where I could haul it home. All of this took place in the midst major snow storm. That made for hard living but it also makes for

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great compassion. I would not want to erase those days because I learned so much and I can relate to people who are struggling now. Had someone dumped a load of money on me then I would not have learned the lessons I did.

No matter how difficult we must remain faithful to God and know that He will provide that which is NEEDED for our daily lives.

Isaiah 26:3-4

³ Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

⁴ Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength: