

**BACK TO THE FUTURE - 8**  
**“Getting Our Priorities Straight”**  
**Matthew 6:25-34**

**Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**

What is it that truly occupies the place of the highest priority in your life? Is it your job? your family? pursuit of education? entertainment? seeking of fame? While most believers understand that the answer to this question ought to be “the Kingdom of God,” too few really understand what it means to seek first the Kingdom of God.

Our priorities are not determined by what we claim to be priorities, but rather by the time and energy we actually spend on things that are important to us. For example, a man

may claim to make his family his first priority but in reality be so occupied with his job that he has little or no time to spend with his family. In the same sense a Christian may claim that God is his highest authority but actually give God only a very little of his time and energy. We all have 168 hours “to spend” each week. If we fail to give God an hour or two on Sunday to worship Him, how can we claim that we have given Him the highest priority in our lives? Have you compared the time you watch television, “play” on the computer, or even spend on the phone with the time you spend in church, Bible study, and personal devotions?

While many claim that they are too busy to serve God, the truth is we will find the time to do what we really want to do. If you will put God in the place He belongs in your life, you will be pleasantly surprised to see how all the other things will begin to “fall into place.” **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

Our text is dealing primarily with the material things that so many times occupy our thoughts and energies to the extent that we worry about the lack of them instead of trusting in God to supply as He has promised.

Those who are rich are tempted to trust in their possessions; those who are poor are tempted to doubt God’s provision. The rich are tempted to become self-satisfied in the false security of their riches; the poor are tempted to worry and fear in the false insecurity of their poverty. Whether one is wealthy or poor - or somewhere in between - his attitude toward material possessions is one of the most reliable marks of his spiritual condition.

Because we are human, we will naturally be concerned with earthly things. However, in Christ, we are recreated as heavenly beings and our concerns should now focus primarily on heavenly things - even while we still live on earth. We are “in the world” but are not to be “of the world.” How we relate to these two worlds is a supreme test of our spiritual lives. It is

interesting to note that 16 of the 38 parables of Jesus deal with money. One out of ten verses in the New Testament also deals with that subject. Scripture offers about 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 on faith, and over 2000 on money. The believer's attitude toward money and possessions is extremely important!

I believe this passage can be summarized in one sentence: **Get your priorities straight and you will not be worrying about anything else!** Three times in these verses Jesus commands us to "take no thought" or to not worry and then gives us at least four reasons why worry is wrong.

## **1. WORRY IS WRONG BECAUSE GOD IS OUR MASTER**

The Key to understanding the importance of getting our priorities straight is found in the first word of verse 25 - "therefore." It refers back to verse 24 which speaks of God as our Master. Because God is our Master, we are not to worry. A servant's only responsibility is to his master, and for believers to worry is to be disobedient and unfaithful to their Master.

- **Worry is the sin of distrusting the promises and providence of God.**

*It has been reported that a dense fog extensive enough to cover seven city blocks a hundred feet deep is composed of less than one glass of water - divided into sixty thousand million droplets. In the right form, a few gallons of water can cripple a large city. In a similar way, the substance of worry is nearly always extremely small compared to the size it forms in our minds and the damage it does in our lives. Someone has said, "Worry is a thin stream of fear that trickles through the mind, which, if encouraged, will cut a channel so wide that all other thoughts will be drained out."*

- **Worry is the opposite of contentment**

Contentment should be the believer's normal state of mind. A Christian's contentment is found in God, and only in

God - in His ownership, control, and provision of everything we possess and will ever need.

- **We should be content because God owns everything. The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. Psalm 24:1**

Why should we worry about His taking from us what really belongs to Him?

- **We should be content because God controls everything. Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. 1 Chronicles 29:12**

Daniel clearly understood this principle for when he was thrown into the lion's den, he slept while the king worried.

- **We should be content because God provides everything. *Jehovah-Jireh* is the name Abraham ascribed to God when He provided a lamb in the place of Isaac. It means *the Lord will provide*.**

**And my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19**

## **2. WORRY IS WRONG BECAUSE GOD IS OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.**

vs. 26 - 30 Have we forgotten who our Father is?

- **We need not worry about our food.**

Birds were not created in the image of God, nor were they ever promised to be joint heirs with Christ. Neither do they have a place in heaven prepared for them. If God gives and sustains life for birds, will he not take care of us who are His children and have been given such glorious promises?

- **We need not worry about our life expectancy.**

The term *stature* can also mean age. All our worrying and fretting can not add one second to the bounds that God has determined for our life. **We are not going anywhere until it is according to God's timing and then we are going no matter what!**

Why worry about it? Instead spend your days honoring, obeying, pleasing and glorifying God.

- **We need not worry about our clothing.**

vs. 28-30 Our worries today are seldom for necessary clothing. [When your teenage daughter says she has nothing to wear, she is probably embellishing a little] If Jesus told those who had but one simple garment not to worry about their clothing, what would He say to us?

To be anxious about things which we need to survive, Jesus says, is sinful and shows little faith. A person who worries about those things may have saving faith, but he does not have faith that relies on God to finish what He has begun. If you can trust God to save you from sin and take you to heaven, why can't you trust Him for your daily needs?

### **3. WORRY IS WRONG BECAUSE OF OUR FAITH**

V. 31-33

- **Worry is characteristic of unbelief.**

Those who have no hope in God naturally put their hope and expectations in things they can enjoy now. They have nothing to live for but the present, and their materialism is perfectly consistent with their religion. They have no heavenly Father to care for them and therefore they have reason to worry.

When we think like the world, because our minds are not centered on God, our minds will have cause to worry. The faithful, trusting, and reasonable Christian is **“anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving [lets his] requests be made known to God.”** (Philippians 4:6)

- **The solution to worry is to focus on the things of God.**

The cause of worry is seeking the things of this world, and the cause of contentment is seeking the things of God's kingdom and His righteousness.

- **We seek first God's kingdom by losing ourselves in obedience to the Lord.**

**But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. Acts 20:24**

- **We seek first God's kingdom when we seek to win people into that kingdom.**

If we have little concern or burden for those who are lost, we have our priorities all mixed up.

- **We seek first God's kingdom when we yearn for the return of Christ.**
- **We seek His righteousness when we desire to live holy lives.**

### **4. WORRY IS WRONG BECAUSE OF OUR FUTURE**

v. 34 Making reasonable provisions for tomorrow is sensible, but to worry about tomorrow is foolish. God is the God of tomorrow as well as the God of today and of eternity.

**Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22,23**

- **God gives us the grace we need one day at a time.**

God promises His grace for tomorrow and for every day thereafter and through eternity. But He does not give us grace for tomorrow now. He only gives His grace as it is needed.

**You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Isaiah 26:3**

The principle is simple. Get your priorities straight and God will take care of the rest.