

NO WORRIES

BACKGROUND PASSAGE: MATTHEW 6:19-34 PRINT PASSAGE: MATTHEW 6:25-34

RESOURCES: *New National Baptist Hymnal 21st Century Edition*,
God's Promises Bible, *Boyd's Commentary for the Sunday School*

KEY VERSE: ...For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:32-33, KJV

Intro

Previously, Jesus has taught about the life of a disciple and the proper relationship to money. Although money is not explicitly mentioned in our current lesson, it is filled with veiled references to money. Money then, as it is now, is needed to survive. Life was difficult in Judea. Roman occupation placed a burden on the people in unjust exorbitant taxes and Roman usurpation of the country's produce. The cumulative effect of these forces would compel anyone to examine their financial status. A component of Jesus' discourse is that His people should not store up treasures on earth, as the heart is where our treasures lie. Money by itself will erode and become useless, whereas the heart will be everlasting if immersed in the Lord. It is conceivable that the disciples have begun to worry or have anxiety about obtaining life necessities. Any form of trepidation of this nature would only undermine and distract from the real mission, disseminating the Gospel. This imagery will serve as a backdrop for the disciple's understanding of how God will supply all of their needs. Jesus' message is one that holds value across many different epochs. Most people worry about the necessities of life at some point or another. This passage of scripture points to the fact that most of Jesus' followers were and are a few steps away from living in dire poverty. Nonetheless, God works it out. We should not worry.

Think About It

What is wealth? What are riches? Of course, the definition varies with the diverse opinions of persons. Wealth and riches cannot be measured unilaterally. How much money cures cancer? How much money can reverse aging? Jesus teaches that wealth and riches invested in eternal life will never erode.

1. Do Not Worry (Matthew 6:25-29)

King James Version

New Revised Standard Version

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 more than raiment?

26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

"THEREFORE I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,

29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

Know It

Jesus begins by exclaiming "for this reason" because He has previously delivered a discourse on the relationship one has with money. Using faith as a background, Jesus presents several examples of the causes of anxiety or abject worry that envelop humans of all social strata. Humans need the essentials of food and water to nourish their bodies. Humans must be concerned with living quarters, whether a tent or a house, for shelter. They need clothing for the obvious reasons of covering and comfort. Because we avidly pursue these needs, Jesus asks if they compare with the totality of our lives. Is life more than food and the body more than clothing? It must be interpreted that humans need more than these essentials to live—food and drink by themselves will not keep us alive. His position is that there is a valid reason that we should not worry or be anxious about procuring the necessary items for a living.

NOTES:

Continuing, Jesus compares the needs of the birds (who do not have jobs or an income to procure life's essentials) to the needs of humans. Unlike humans, birds are not farmers or shepherds but are fed by our heavenly Father. God created the birds (and all animals), as well as His creating humans. However, Jesus does not say whether God values humans more or holds us to a higher standard of morality. He does ask the disciples if they believe that they are more valuable to God than the birds of the air. God takes care of the animal kingdom by natural means with a food chain that humans may not understand or value. As we have become better educated about interrupting the ecology, many countries have laws that only allow seasonal hunting and fishing while investing in the enforcement that prohibits poaching. Even as the animals are cared for by God, human have a vital role for their care as well. Humans are cared for differently, yet the Father is instrumental in their care. Asking a rhetorical question to which the disciples would answer, "Yes," they are then asked whether worry can add to the span of their lives. Although Jesus uses an hour as an example, it serves as a non-defined time that cannot be measured. However, the implication is clear—stress will not improve the lives of humans. Our worry about procuring basic living needs cannot add to our lives, as stress can erode the health of humans.

Continuing His comparisons, Jesus examines worry about clothing, which at face value, may seem to be just about having the appropriate type of wardrobe. To worry about clothing means to worry about not having enough clothing. Recall that most of the people who surrounded Jesus were poor, and a man was blessed to own just one cloak. When this cloak was worn, and the man may not have the means to purchase another mantle, there was obvious concern or consternation. Having enough food, having the proper cloak, such as for the winter seasons, could be the difference between life and death. But Jesus intones that we notice the lilies and various flowers that seemingly grow unattended. As with His example of the birds who neither sow nor reap, the flowers do not work nor spin, i.e., flowers are not themselves responsible for their clothing. Yet, Jesus declares that Solomon's glory does not compare with the beauty of God's creation in the plant kingdom. Jesus uses the example of a wealthy Solomon who had a huge royal wardrobe. However, the king's clothes were not as beautiful as a field of these flowers. God's glory knows no bounds within nature or anywhere.

2. God Knows Our Needs (Matthew 6:30–32)

King James Version

New Revised Standard Version

WHEREFORE, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

BUT if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

31 Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?'

32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

NOTES:

At this point, He asks the disciples if God is responsible for clothing the grasses of the field. They would probably understand the imagery that Jesus is presenting. Jesus notes that the flowers that are alive and beautiful today will soon wither and die—and their remnants are subject to be destroyed. Humans and flowers have a lifespan that only God is aware of, yet, like the lilies of the field, the Father is responsible for clothing us. This imagery reveals that God clothes us with His grace and mercy, direct contributors to our existence. That is why we should not worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food, drink, or clothes to wear because God is aware of His children's needs. However, those humans that refuse to align themselves with God will never acknowledge His benevolence, as the pagans' lack of faith blinds them to the realities of heaven and earth. The Gentiles are only concerned about obtaining possessions that stroke their physical and emotional needs. However, being the "chosen of God," the people of Israel should have had a deeper understanding of their place in the order of God's creation. They should have displayed a modicum of unwavering faith. Life was extremely difficult for the average person of Jesus' day. Even securing the daily essentials of life was a challenge to most families. Therefore, the disciple's anxiety was not entirely unfounded. It was based in the everyday experiences of living in their world as it was constituted at the time.

Nonetheless, Jesus reminds His followers that God is aware that His people need all of these things in order to live and, in most cases, just survive! In contrast to the heretics' material gain, the Christian finds his gain from a nonfinancial sort and has an inner satisfaction with the situation that God has ordained for him. Remember, it is not money that is the root of all evil; it is the love of money that is the root of all sorts of evil, as some who long for it have wandered away from the faith (1 Timothy 6:10). Therefore, if they lose their moral compass, those that seek to be rich can fall into a trap, especially if they do not seek the Kingdom!

3. Focus on God (Matthew 6:33–34)

King James Version

New Revised Standard Version

BUT seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

BUT strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

34 "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Jesus' disciples would have concerns and be found contemplating their financial status, as would any responsible person. These former fishermen (although one, a former tax collector) were promised that they would become "fishers of men." The issue of how they would care for their families could have obviously had a place in the conversation of their mission; therefore, their anxiety and worry about the basic necessities of life seemed reasonable. In this case, Jesus' reassurances were designed to direct the disciples to embrace the important components that would undergird their mission. They were to be guided by the principles of heaven by seeking and finding the jewels of God's Kingdom. In this scenario, obtaining the Kingdom's treasures and the righteousness of God would provide all of their needs and more while calming their anxieties as to how they would live. Depending upon their faith, the disciples were not to turn to other living methods but set the goal of obtaining the Kingdom as their priority. God would then add all other things, such as the items that caused apprehension, to enrich their daily lives. Hence, the prior messages that spoke about the care of the Kingdom's natural order and how a just God would provide made sense. Therefore, Jesus ends by assuring them that their worry is useless and destructive because each day presents its own set of challenges, problems, and issues. Worry only makes those issues worse.

Application & Review

Remember It

Instead of worrying, Christians who have a relationship with Jesus will have begun praying as soon as the situation strikes because prayer softens the emotion of worry, as we trust in the intervention of the Lord. God already has our issues covered because He knows that each day will have its own reason to worry. This is Jesus' point in this lesson because God knows we should not worry. However, it is not just that God knows but God cares tenderly for His creation, humanity included. We, on the other hand, ought not worry because of who He is.

Share It • Live It • Hear It

One of the Psalms (songs) that helps to reinforce this lesson is 23. "God Will Supply" by Malcolm Williams and Great Faith is a modern interpretation of that Psalm. The choir sings, "The Lord is my Shepherd and I shall not want. He will supply my needs." Look the song up and remember that God supplies our needs, so we do not have to worry or be anxious.

Make a pact with yourself. Instead of worrying about anything, determine to pray. Any and everything you would worry about, take a moment and tell God about it.

Our parents and grandparents had a saying for family and neighbors: "If I have a loaf of bread, you have a slice." This village axiom meant that because of the grace of God if He provided for "me and mine," He would give me enough to share with those in need. We must never forget to praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

#Noworries

Why is worry a bad idea in an anxious world? Share your views and tag us @rhboydco and use #rhboydco.



www.rhboyd.com

Devotional Readings for June 7–13, 2021

DDR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Do Not Fear the Storm	Do Not Fear Persecution	No Separation from God's Love	I Have Overcome the World	Choose to Follow Me Now!	Jesus Delivers the Demon-Possessed	Jesus Still the Stormy Seas
Mark 4:35–41	Matthew 24:9–14	Romans 8:31–39	John 16:25–33	Matthew 8:18–22	Matthew 8:28–34	Matthew 8:23–27