



Frisco First Baptist Church

Distracted • What Honoring God Looks Like • Matt 6:25-34 • Jan 26, 2025

MAIN POINT

TODAY IS THE DAY! After the second service join us, along with anyone else helping to lead your group for LIFEGroup Leader Training. The topic is: How to know if you are winning. We will be in room 400 for a meal and discussion.

Today's Lesson: **What honoring God looks like: Seeking first His Kingdom and righteousness.** (Matt 6:33, and Matt 16:24-27, and selected) putting first things first. What does honoring God in my marriage, family, career, and finances look like? We will discuss the need for personal devotions, corporate worship, family time and planned generosity.

INTRODUCTION

The sermon is set within two statements of Jesus: he has not come to destroy but to fulfil the Mosaic law (Mt 5:17); and it is necessary to have a kind of righteousness that "exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees" (v 20). So [The Sermon is] more concerned with the interior life of the disciple, to activate here and now the kind of life Jesus communicates in those who follow him.¹

Jesus begins to draw a contrast between the Pharisees deeds and His expectation of followers. He points out how Jesus followers are meant to be different in the way we give, the way we pray, how we fast, what we value, and even what our minds dwell on. We honor God we seek first the kingdom in thoughts and actions.

1. **What are your top three worries?**
2. **What is your favorite kind of food?**
3. **Why did Jesus choose these three areas of abuse (almsgiving, prayer, and fasting) to condemn?**

UNDERSTANDING

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Matt 6:25-34

6:25 Verses 19 through 24 deal with love of the world, and verses 25 through 34 with anxiety because of the world. Jesus taught that anxiety is, first, unnecessary (vv. 25–30), second, unworthy (vv. 31–33), and third, unfruitful (v. 34).

4. **What three worries did Jesus discourage among His followers? Why? (6:25)**
5. **What benefits does worry bring? (6:27)**
6. **Is worry a sin (v. 31)?**
7. **What worries do you struggle to keep under control?**

“There may be greater sins than worry, but very certainly there is no more disabling sin.”

6:26 If we fret constantly about having enough food and clothing, we show that we have not yet learned a very basic lesson that nature teaches us: God provides for His creatures’ needs. Furthermore, God is the heavenly Father of believers. Consequently He will take special care of them. (This argument is a *minori ad maius*, “From the lesser to the greater.”) This does not mean that we can disregard work, any more than birds can disregard scavenging for their food, but it does mean that we should disregard worrying.

What about the fact that some believers have starved to death? I believe that Jesus meant that as long as it is God’s will for a person to live, He will sustain him or her. The birds that God provides for faithfully also die. This promise is no guarantee that a disciple of Christ will live forever on earth. It guarantees God’s provision as long as it is His will for him or her to live.

6:27 Fretting cannot lengthen “his life’s span” (or better: “his height”) any more than it can put food on the table or clothes on the back. Many people today spend large amounts of time and money to get in the best possible physical condition so that they will live as long as possible. Physical exercise is important, but giving it too much attention is wrong.

8. **Who is consumed by concern over food, water, and clothing? (6:32)**
9. **What priorities should we have in life? (6:33)**
10. **What does God do for His children when they keep the right perspective, refuse to worry, and trust Him? (6:33)**

6:31–32 Since God provides so bountifully, it is not only foolish but pagan to fret about the basic necessities of life. The fretting disciple lives like an unbeliever (typically a “Gentile”) who disbelieves and disregards God. Such a person devotes too much of his or her attention to the accumulation of material goods, and disregards the more important things in life.

6:33 Rather than pursuing material things, the disciple should replace this pursuit with one that has much greater significance. Seeking the kingdom involves pursuing the things about the kingdom for which Jesus taught His disciples to pray, namely, God’s honor, His reign, and His will (vv. 9–10).

“The key to avoiding anxiety is to make the kingdom one’s priority (v 33).”

11. **Does verse 33 teach works righteousness?**
12. **Why is it silly to fret over the future? (6:34)**
13. **In what ways does this passage reflect God's character in providing for His creation?**

Seeking God’s righteousness means pursuing righteousness in life in submission to God’s will (cf. 5:6, 10, 20; 6:1). It does not mean seeking justification, in view of Jesus’ use of “righteousness” in the context.

“In the end, just as there are only two kinds of piety, the self-centered and the God-centered, so there are only two kinds of ambition: one can be ambitious either for oneself or for God.

There is no third alternative.”

The “things” that God will add are the necessities of life that He provides providentially (through divine foresight and intervention), about which Jesus warned His disciples not to fret (5:45; 6:11).

- 14. How do you think worry is affecting you emotionally, physically, and spiritually?**
- 15. If God is really in control of the universe, why do we worry so much about so many things?**
- 16. How would you answer someone who interprets this passage to mean that God promises to give His children everything their hearts desire?**
- 17. What is the difference between planning for the future and worrying about the future?**

6:34 Since we have such a promise (v. 33), backed up by the testimony of God’s provision, we should not fret about tomorrow. Today has enough trouble or evil for us to deal with. Moreover, the trouble we anticipate tomorrow may never materialize. God provides only enough grace so that we can deal with life one day at a time. Tomorrow He will provide enough grace (help) for what we will face then (cf. Phil. 4:6–7). “Tomorrow will worry about itself” means that it “will bring its own worries” (NLT).ⁱⁱ

Vikki Kraft used to say “There is no grace for your imagination.”

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

- 18. What can help you entrust your worries to God?**
- 19. What worry will you entrust to God today?**
- 20. What steps can you take today to change your priorities from worldly ones to kingdom ones?**
- 21. What does it mean in practical terms for a person to “seek *first* the kingdom of God and his righteousness”?**

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the reminder today that You are the provider of all our needs. We confess that, at times, we allow worry to take control of our hearts and minds, forgetting that You care for us more than the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. Help us to remember that life is more than food and clothing, and that when we seek first Your Kingdom and Your righteousness, You will provide everything we

need.

Lord, we pray for wisdom in our daily lives, that we would honor You in our marriages, families, careers, and finances. Help us to prioritize what truly matters: personal devotions, corporate worship, time spent with our families, and generosity that reflects Your love.

Teach us to trust You fully and release our anxieties into Your hands. We know that worrying adds nothing to our lives, so we choose today to focus on the things of Your Kingdom, knowing that You will take care of our needs.

We ask for Your strength to live out the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:33, seeking Your Kingdom above all else. May our lives reflect the peace that comes from fully trusting You with every concern, big or small.

In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

COMMENTARY

6:25–34 (Luke 12:22–34). If a person is occupied with the things of God, the true Master, how will he care for his ordinary needs in life, such as food, clothing, and shelter? The Pharisees in their pursuit of material things had never learned to live by faith. Jesus told them and us not to worry about these things, for life is more important than physical things. He cited several illustrations to prove His point. The birds of the air are fed by the heavenly Father, and the lilies of the field grow in such a way that their splendor is greater than even Solomon's. Jesus was saying God has built into His Creation the means by which all things are cared for. The birds are fed because they diligently work to maintain their lives. They do not store up great amounts of food, but continually work. And believers are far more valuable to God than birds! The lilies grow daily through a natural process. Therefore an individual need not be anxious about his existence (Matt. 6:31), for by worrying he can never add any amount of time, not even a single hour, to his life. Rather than being like the pagans who are concerned about physical needs, the Lord's disciples should be concerned about the things of God, His kingdom and His righteousness. Then all these needs will be supplied in God's timing. This is the life of daily faith. It does no good to worry—do not worry occurs three times (vv. 25, 31, 34; cf. vv. 27–28)—or be concerned about tomorrow for there are sufficient matters to attend to each day. Worrying shows that one has "little faith" in what God can do (v. 30; cf. you of little faith in 8:26; 14:31; 16:8). As a disciple cares each day for the things God has trusted to him, God, his heavenly Father (6:26, 32), cares for his daily needs.ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ Houston, J. M. (1988). Beatitudes, The. In Baker encyclopedia of the Bible (Vol. 1, p. 272). Baker Book House.

ⁱⁱ Commentary not sited is from Constable, T. (2003). Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible (Mt 6:25–34). Galaxie Software.

ⁱⁱⁱ Barbieri, L. A., Jr. (1985). Matthew. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures (Vol. 2, p. 33). Victor Books.