

Matthew 6:25-34

In the preceding verses Jesus teaches His disciples about how to fast and how to deal with wealth in relation to God's will. He was encouraging them above all, to store up their treasures in heaven where nothing can be corrupted or stolen. This a continuation.

Verse 25

- ***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?***
- Since God has given us "life" and a "body," He will certainly also provide what we need to maintain them.
- It is wrong, therefore, for a disciple to fret (worry) about such things. He or she should simply trust and obey God, and get on with fulfilling one's divinely revealed calling in life.
- ***26“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?***
- 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.
- Since God is the father of believers, He will take special care of them.
- This scripture is not encouraging us to stop working. It is instead encouraging us to stop worrying.
- ***27“Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?***
- Fretting cannot lengthen life any more than it can put food on the table or clothes on the back. Worry really shortens life.
- ***28“So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;***
- The lilies of the field were wild flowers. His point was that God is so good that He covers the ground with beautiful wildflowers that have no productive value and only last a short time.
- God's providential grace should not make the disciple lazy, but confident that He will similarly provide for His children's needs.

- **29** *“and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30“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?”*
- God dressed simple flowers more beautifully than Israel’s richest king therefore being anxious about the essential things of life is basically a lack of or little faith in God.
- *“The man who feeds his heart on the record of what God has done in the past will never worry about the future.”*
- **31** *“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32“For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.*
- Since God provides so freely generously for His own, it is not only foolish but also pagan-like to fret about the basic necessities of life. A fretting disciple behaves like a non-believer/ gentile who does not believe and does not care about 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.
- *“The key to avoiding anxiety is to make the kingdom one’s priority.*
- Rather than pursuing material things, we should replace this with pursuing something with a much greater significance.
- Seeking the kingdom involves pursuing the things which are about the kingdom for which Jesus taught His disciples to pray, namely: God’s honor, His reign, and His will.
- Seeking God’s righteousness means pursuing righteousness in life in submission to God’s will.
- *In the end, just as there are only 2 forms of devotion, the self-centered and the God centered, there are also only 2 types of ambition, for one’s self or for God.*
- **33** *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*
- Here, God promises to meet the needs of those who commit themselves to seeking the furtherance of His "kingdom" and "righteousness."

- ***34“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.***
- Since we have such a promise, backed up by the testimony of divine providence, 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 we can deal with life one day at a time. Tomorrow He will provide enough grace (help) for what we will face then.

To summarize, the disciple's relationship to wealth should be one of trust in God and to have a single-minded commitment to the affairs of His kingdom and righteousness. It should not be hoarding or pursuing wealth for its own sake. God, not Mammon, should be the magnet of the believer's life. The fruit of such an attitude will be freedom from anxiety about daily material needs.

"It is impossible to be a partially committed or part-time disciple; it is impossible to serve two masters, whether one of them be wealth or anything else, when the other master is meant to be God."