

Flipped: The Upside Down Kingdom—Why Worry?

Wesley Sabio · 11/5/2023 · Matthew 6:24-34

- Matthew 6:25-34 NIV, 25** *Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?*
- 26** *Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?*
- 27** *Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*
- 28** *And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.*
- 29** *Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.*
- 30** *If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith?*
- 31** *So do not worry, saying 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'*
- 32** *For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*
- 33** *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*
- 34** *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

Jesus addresses a topic that unfortunately has found its way into the pattern and rhythm of most of our everyday lives.

- We often experience feelings of worry and anxiety regarding the future and the unknown.
- Jesus isn't addressing clinical anxiety or anxiety-related conditions. Jesus confronts the topic of general worry and particularly when "good worry" becomes "bad worry".
- GOOD WORRY GONE BAD...
 - is marked by constant distraction and a lack of focus is often exhibited as diminished trust in God.
 - worries too much about the future, today.
 - produces inaction and paralysis in decision-making.

Overall Picture of Matthew 6:25-34: Jesus offers freedom from worry and anxiety. You could also say: STOP WORRYING, START WORSHIPING.

We should stop worrying because:

#1 JESUS IS LORD.

Matthew 6:25 *Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?*

- The "therefore" in verse 25 calls us to look at verse 24.

Matthew 6:24 *No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*

- We have to choose one or the other.
- This is easy to understand intellectually, but difficult to live out practically.
- We all face the temptation to be caught up with the physical (what we can take in with our senses - what we can see, touch, hear, taste, smell) - caught up with things that money can buy.
- Jesus warns against making our lives all about the accumulation and experience of things money can buy.
- Our challenge is how to live the Jesus way in a culture that prioritizes the opposite.
- Jesus uses many rhetorical questions to lead us to the truth: Life is certainly more than food, clothes, money, and experiences.
- Are you going to worship God or worship money?

We should stop worrying because:

#2 GOD PROVIDES FOR CREATION AND HE WILL CERTAINLY PROVIDE FOR US.

Mathew 6:26-30, 26 *Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?*

27 *Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?*

28 *And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.*

29 *Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.*

30 *If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith?*

- Jesus uses creation to illustrate His provision (birds, flowers, grass)
- He makes an argument from the lesser to the greater.
 - If God provides for the birds and **you are more valuable than the birds**, He will provide care for you.
 - If God cares for the flowers and **you are more valuable than the flowers**, He will certainly care for you.
 - If God provides for the grass and **you are more valuable than the grass**, He will provide care for you.

- Jesus is making it clear that He's got you. **So why worry?**

We should stop worrying because:

#3 OUR HEAVENLY FATHER LOVES US.

Matthew 6:31-34, 31 *So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'*

32 *For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*

33 *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

34 *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

- These last few verses showcase God's knowledge and care.
- The pagans run after food, water, and clothing.
 - Worrying about basic necessities is like acting no better than people who don't know God and don't have a relationship with Him.
- Our Heavenly Father takes it upon Himself to make sure His children are covered and because of this, God's people should be marked by trust.
- God has been faithful in the past and He continues to be faithful in the present.
- Instead of worrying about needs, God gives us an alternative way to live.
 - Instead of worrying, Jesus tells us to worship—

Matthew 6:33, *Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

- When we do this, we experience freedom from worry and anxiety because we take God at His word and trust Him to provide. He's been faithful thus far and He will continue in faithfulness.

Matthew 6:34 *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

- "Tomorrow's troubles will be met with tomorrow's grace and mercy."

Lamentations 3:21-23, *But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:*

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;

his mercies never come to an end;

they are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness.

APPLICATION

- These verses only apply to you if Jesus is your Lord. If He is, take comfort and walk this out by actively trusting God.
 - Go on a walk this week and look at the birds and the flowers and thank God for His provision and care.
- If you aren't sure if Jesus is your Lord, call upon the God and be saved. Turn from your sin and embrace Jesus as your Savior.
 - **Text JOURNEY to 951.425.4425.**