

Living in the Kingdom of God

When we really make Jesus the “King” of our “kingdom,” we begin to realize that we have very little to worry about. Our concerns will be more about remaining faithful with the stewardship of our possessions, than in the frantic attempts to try to protect them. Some of us need a good “kick in the assets” to realize that we can’t trust in earthly stuff!

- **Day One - Read Matthew 6:19-24; Proverbs 3:9-10; 2 Corinthians 16:2**

What are the “material” treasures in your life? How is it difficult to manage them? What does it mean to “lay up treasure in heaven?” What’s the difference between “using” money and “serving” money? How can we “honor God” with all of our wealth?

Pray – Ask God to help you in the stewardship of all your resources, that you would learn in your giving to be “*planned, prioritized, and proportionate.*”

- **Day Two - Read Matthew 6:25-27, 28-32**

Why is it so difficult to not worry? What are the material things you worry about? What’s the difference between wise forethought and worry?

Pray – Ask God to help you learn to pray more and worry less. Let the first thought of worry bring you to prayer!

- **Day Three - Read Matthew 6:33-34; Proverbs 3:5-6**

What does it mean to “seek” God’s kingdom *above* and *before* anything else? What does this mean in everyday life? How can worry be replaced by trust?

Pray – Ask God to help replace worry with trust, and to grow in the use of the spiritual disciplines, especially the disciplines of prayer, fasting and meditation, by dwelling on the promises of God through Scripture memorization. Psalm 119:45, 97, 103

New Life Lessons
June 30th & July 1st, 2012
Pastor Ron Salsbury

“Treasure and Trust”

The Sermon on the Mount #6

Matthew 6:19-34

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV) "Do not **store up** for yourselves **treasures** on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] But store up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

What does it mean to “treasure” something?

The Problem with Earthly Treasure

- **It doesn't last & isn't safe .**
- **It determines our focus .**
- **It limits our freedom .**

What Gets Our Attention Gets Us

Matthew 6:22-24 (NIV) "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your **eyes are good**, your **whole body** will be **full of light**. [23] But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Colossians 3:2-5

[24a] "No one can **serve** two masters.
douleuo – “to be enslaved to” **kurios** – “Lord, supreme authority”

[24b] Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and **Money**. 1 Timothy 6:9-11
mammonas – “personal wealth/security”

The Stewardship of Our Treasure

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NLT) ⁹ Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. ¹⁰ Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine. Malachi 3:10

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV) ⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. *hilaros* – “attractively cheerful”

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV) ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

1. Planned 2. Prioritized 3. Proportionate

1 Timothy 6:6-8 (NIV) ⁶ Godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. *autarkeia* – “contentedness”
(from the root, *arkeō* – “enough”)

The Challenge of Trust

Matthew 6:25, 27 (NIV) “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 important than food, and the body more important than clothes? [27] Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”

What’s Wrong with Worry?

- We lose sight of what’s important .
- We miss the present moment .
- It doesn’t solve the problem .

Good and Bad Examples

Matthew 6:26, 28-32 (NIV) “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?”

[28] And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies 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, O 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.

The Focus of Our Lives

Matthew 6:33 (NIV) 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. Proverbs 3:5-6; John 16:33

It’s Time to Decide

- Who We Will Live For?
- What We Will Trust In?
- Where We Will Place Our Treasure?

Matthew 6:33-34 (MSG) ³³ Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

³⁴ “Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.