



How can we stop worrying? Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. Matthew 6:19–34 prepares us for the opening section of public worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these sixteen verses, the Holy Spirit teaches us that seeing the Lord’s goodness in everything solves not just the problem of worrying but also the sinful tendency to live for earthly things.

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 • Matthew 6:19–34

Questions from the Scripture text: What shouldn’t we lay up where (v19)? What happens there? What should we lay up where instead (v20)? What doesn’t happen there? When we lay up our treasure somewhere, what else will be there (v21)? What is the lamp of the body (v22)? What happens if you have a good (clear) eye? But if you have an evil (cloudy) eye, what will be full of what (v23a)? What is in danger of being darkness (v23b)? With what result? What can no one do (v24)? What must he do? Which two specific masters can we not simultaneously serve? What does Jesus say not to do in v25a? What two things mustn’t we worry about for our life? What else mustn’t we worry about (v25b)? What mustn’t we worry about for our body? What does v25c imply about our life and our body? At whom does v26 say to look? What don’t they do? So, Who feeds them? Whom does He value more? What does v27 ask? What does v28 ask? What are we to consider? How they do what? What don’t they do? To whom are they compared in v29? How did he compare to them? Who has thus clothed them (v30)? And what is going to happen to them? Whom will He much more clothe? What does Jesus call us at the end of v30? What does v31 forbid? What three things, specifically, does it say not to worry about? Who seek after all these (v32)? But Who knows that we need them? What two names does v33 give to what we should seek instead? What will be added if we do? Even seeking His righteousness, about what are we not to worry (v34)? Why?

Next week’s Call to Worship, Prayer for Help, and first song all come from Matthew 6:19–34 so that we will see that we are singing God’s thoughts after Him with *We Plow the Fields*.

What do vv19–20 mean by “lay up treasure”? v24 gives us a good idea when it talks about treasure on earth as serving the mammon master and about treasure in heaven as serving God instead.

Either God is a way to get what we really want as we live and work, or else all of our living and working is a way to serve God. Sadly, I’ve heard presentations of “the gospel” that come primarily from a standpoint of all of that God can do for you to serve your interests.

But vv22–23 tell us that viewing God this way is a strategy for making your life only darkness without light (v23, “how great is that darkness!”). It’s like replacing your eyeballs with two giant cataracts so that no light gets through at all. Viewing God as a way to increase your earthly prosperity shuts you up in such darkness that you do not properly function in any way (v23, “if your eye is cloudy, your whole body will be full of darkness”).

One might protest, “but I have to survive! I have to focus on getting thins and storing them up!” In that case, one would be doing the worrying that v25 forbids. But if God cares about our whole life, then surely living in service to Him (including working hard and combining frugality and generosity, as His own Word teaches us to do) will not ultimately result in missing out on something we need.

The nations seek with their lives food and drink and clothing (v31–32a). But they don’t know God as heavenly Father and therefore don’t have confidence that He knows (and cares about and acts upon) their needs (v32b). If worrying about things like that expose a heart that doesn’t really know Father, then what does it say about us if we are full of worry about even less needful things?

Our God has shown great care and lavish generosity on creatures that we value very little (v26–30). But He values s even more than we value ourselves! “How much more” (v30b) is His care for us and generosity toward us!!

It is this recognizing of examples of God’s love toward all His creatures all around us that neutralizes worrying and supports and enables living our lives in service of Him. He is the best Master. Money doesn’t know, doesn’t care, and cannot love you back. With worry eliminated, all the expenditure of our life that goes into worrying (v34) can be redirected into seeking to live righteously before our King (v33). After all, He is our Provider and Protector, which demands that we recognize Him as our Master and live in service to Him!

What are some examples of creatures that you see God taking care of? How does His care for you and generosity compare? What is the greatest example of this? What else will He do for you? What does this free you to spend your life upon?

Sample prayer: Lord, we bless Your Name for the generous design of Your creation and the generous conduct of Your providence. Surely, You love Your creatures, but of all of them, You have made us in Your image and redeemed us in Your Son. What a great wickedness our worrying is, O God! And how greatly it harms us by leading us into serving earthly interests with our lives! Forgive us, and grant unto us the ministry of Your Spirit, so that we would thereby be enabled to live vigorously on earth as those who serve You and obey Your righteous law! For this, we cry to You through Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP145C “The Eyes of All Are Turned to You” or TPH551 “We Plow the Fields”

For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit bit.ly/harpcHAH

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Matthew 6 beginning in verse 19 and going through the end of the chapter, These are God's words. Do not lay up for yourselves. Treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.

But lay up for yourselves, treasures in heaven or neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal For where your treasure. Is there your heart will be. Also, the lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore, your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.

If therefore the light that is in, you is darkness. How great is that? Darkness. No one can serve two masters For either. He will hate the one and love the other or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and memon.

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. Look at the birds of the air for they neither.

So, nor reap nor gather into barns. Yet your heavenly Father. Feeds them. Are you not of more value than they Which of you by worrying can add one qubit to his stature. So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field. How they grow? They neither toil nor spin.

And yet, I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not a raid like one of these 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. Oh you of little faith.

Therefore, do not worry saying, what shall we eat? Or what shall we drink? Or what shall we wear for after all these things? The Gentiles seek for your heavenly Father knows that you need these things. But seek first, the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow. Will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

So far the reading of God's inspired in an errant word. My dear children. Sometimes I'm amazed by the good providence of God to us. This happens to us all the time like when we have first Kings 8 and Solomon praying about how what we need, most of all is forgiveness and that worse than the plagues that had come upon Egypt and that might come later upon Israel is the plague of our own hearts.

And then we come into Acts 3 in the preaching yesterday and the blessing that Jesus brought for the nation is to turn us from our iniquities. And there's such a coordination in God's providence of those passages that he gave. Well, Here's a coordination and God's providence. And if you hear people worrying and fretting about tomorrow or six weeks from now, when all of the provision that God has a faithfully given us our whole life long through various means will suddenly be torn away and then you come and you have family worship and that was planned and written by man some time ago.

But by God for us from all eternity, and the great conclusion is therefore, do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow. We'll worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Now, obviously, the scripture is not saying here don't work hard, don't be frugal, don't be wise, don't take care, especially of the needs of those whom, God has entrusted to you.

Scripture isn't saying those things because those are all violations of God's law and we who walk by faith are to walk in obedience to God seek first, the kingdom of God and His righteousness, but he does give us a passage. Before us this morning, that will help us so condition.

Our hearts as to be able to withstand the loss or perspective loss of earthly things, without losing our light, our life, our joy without panicking or becoming anxious, and it all has to do with where you think your life comes from? Do not lay up for yourselves. Treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.

But lay up for yourselves, treasures in heaven, or neither a moth, nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal for where your treasure is there. Your heart will be also. Or as the apostle puts it in his letter to Timothy, you know, tell the wealthy to be rich towards God.

Most of all, because after all it is, God, who feeds us with our bread, it is God who clothes us with our clothing birds don't so and don't reap. But it is God who feeds then Does that give men a right to not so and not reap and say, well God will feed me.

Of course not. Scripture says, let him who will not work. Let him not eat, but it does mean that when we sow and reap and eat, God is the one who is feeding us by the sowing and the reaping and the eating and God sometimes brings us into seasons of neediness as he would the Jerusalem Church and yet he would feed them the sowing and the reaping failed.

But he sent food from the Corinthian church and the Philippian church and the Thessalonian Church in order to help feed those in Judea. And even when we go hungry with physical food, the devil cannot say, see, you're not really the Son of God because the one who is our righteousness was able to answer.

Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God and that righteousness, which has been counted for us, the Lord. Jesus is also producing in us by his Spirit so that our hearts will be more satisfied with God. Even then any of his other good gifts.

And that when we have the gifts, it will be God Himself that we are enjoying in the gifts. So this isn't saying don't set money away for your family to take care of them. As you may wisely expect in the ordinary providence of God, it is saying that what you store up is faith in God that He is going to take care of us.

Whether through the means of our being obedient and wise and diligent or despite how we have fallen short, as we look to him and repentance and faith, or even without those particular means, just in his extraordinary Providence, what we might call miraculous because if our hope is in God and our dependence is upon God and our delight is in.

God Can a moth eat that? Hope Can a steel take away that what we depend? That's steel. Can a thief, take away? What we are? Depending on can fire. Burn up what? We're delighting in mods, and thieves, and fire. Can't do anything to God. Rust can't do anything to God.

They can do things. To the usual means that God uses. But at the end of the day, those are just means, and it's God, who's taking care of us. And it's God upon whom we depend and it's God in whom we delight. And he's filled his creation with examples of that as we look at the birds or as we look at the flowers of the field, you know, we use the flowers of the field as fuel for fire.

And there is a sense in which that's true of everything on earth. You guys remember? Some of you older children, how you would be fighting with one, another maybe fight contending with one another over over a toy or over something. And I would say, don't contend over those things, Jesus is about to burn them up.

Treasure the Lord and treasure your brother or your sister. Because these are what the Lord has given you that are forever. There is a sense in which everything, the Mammon some people say money because it sounds like men and you may see riches or wealth but it's any material thing from which we may get sustenance or comfort or pleasure.

Wealth is not a horrible word for it, but if we are serving memon, if we are really hoping in and depending upon and delighting in the stuff of this world, We will end up serving it living for it. And even, as we give lip service to God, God will end up to us.

Functionally the way by which we get the stuff that we really feel that we need and really feel that we enjoy. You can even hear it coming out when people justify desecrating the Sabbath day and even officers of the church engage in joining those who are desecrating the Sabbath day.

And the idea is while this is how we rest, and this is how we enjoy. But when you're saying that you're saying the things for which God has set apart, the day is not something that I find. So restful or so enjoyable and you find that you're really laying up treasures on earth and your heart is there.

Instead of in heaven. And so we need to learn to take that lesson from the Sabbath day, to take that lesson from Israel in the wilderness. And say if we have got, we have what we need and if in his wisdom we have not had good water for three days.

And if in his wisdom we are hungry. We still have him and his love for us and his redemption, and his wisdom and will be hearing in a couple of days and the next passage and Exodus 16, how he even highlighted to them. The Sabbath commandment in the way that the manna worked so that he would drive home.

The point that what they needed was not mana on the ground or mammon in the earth, but the mercy of their father who is in heaven, and that is what we need. That is where our treasure is. And if we can't see that, then we can't see anything versus 22.

And, and 23 may be out of places why I've left them for for last and explaining the passage. Because you can see what he's talking about in verses, 19 to 21 in the laying of treasures, and where your heart is there your heart where your treasures or heart will be also, and how that relates to the do not worry about your life and needing to serve God and live for him who takes care of us, rather than for the means,

by which he usually takes care of us, you can see all that.

But then it says, the lamp of the body in virtually. It says the lamp of the body, is the eye. If therefore your eye is and I'm gonna use more literal words here, I'll just read it to you. If therefore, your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is cloudy, your whole body will be full of darkness.

Okay, so the clear eye is in the analogy, the eye that sees God, as the source of all our goodness. So when it looks at birds that rejoices over God's goodness to the birds would it looks at flowers and rejoices over God's goodness to the flowers and it looks at its you know, granny Smith apples and peanut butter and scrambled eggs.

It rejoices over God's goodness and granny Smith apples and peanut butter and and scrambled eggs. It sees everything clearly The light of the knowledge of the glory of God puts everything in exactly its right perspective. But if your eye is cloudy, and what that's saying is, you know, we don't see it very much because if someone's eye gets to be this way and our culture, they replace it with a glass eye, but someone who's I is diseased or has become, what would be like a giant cataract, and it's not clear.

It's useless to him, He can't get light through his fingertips, or through his knees, or through his nose. That man is going to be in darkness and blindness. If his eyes don't get any light in them, that's the only place that you can get the light with which, to see for what you're doing in the rest of your life.

Well, dependence upon God in all things devotion, to God and all things delight in God. In all things is, what gives clarity to the Christian life. So that instead of stumbling around blindly, which gives us anxiety and nervousness, and we don't know what we're doing. And you basically live in life as a whole, like, a blind man.

Does you do stupid things? It's it's like thinking that life is all about food. Like the only thing you need for a good life is the best food and you don't have fellowship with with people and you don't have clothing and you don't have shelter. And so it is it's like a naked shelterless friendless man, sitting on top of a mountaintop with the best food there ever was.

And you say, oh wow, what a blessing or someone who thinks that the body is all about clothing. And so every, every every joint is dislocated and all of his muscles are atrophied and he's got every kind of cancer and and covered with sores and all kinds of diseases.

But he's got the best clothing possible and God says, it's not the body more than clothing. It's not the life. More than food. Are you really so foolish? As to think See, there's the analogy that you are like a blind moron. If you think that just having enough of the means by which God takes care of you is being taken care of.

He says no Life is way more than food. The body is way more than clothing. And depending upon God, delighting in God, is what gives clarity to our eyes. So that we will see that and live that way. So as we go through the day today and every day, let us receive everything we have to do as an assignment.

From God, let us receive all of the providence and all of the things that we possess as things that are gifts from God, entrusted to us by him to use, according to his word, Yes, which means to enjoy his goodness in them, and to prioritize things like generosity with them to serve God with all the that he has given us.

But let us receive everything we have as a gift from him in everything that we do as an assignment from him so that we may live with clarity and so that we may see His love for us and all the good things. So that if the good things should come in short supply, the power goes out, the running water from the city, stops the food stores.

Start to be used up. We've been seeing his love the whole time and has love, didn't stop. And it never came from the city and we're not running out of its storage because we see his love and all of his good gifts. That's the way to think. And to live.

Clearly, Let's pray Our Father. We pray that you would help us To seek your kingdom and your righteousness to rejoice over Christ being our righteousness, and your favor towards us. That we know your love has planned from outside of time and has now accomplished in the Lord Jesus, and is applying to us by your spirit, help us Lord to make application of that with all the things that we have.

And all the things that we do so that we will live with in faith and in joy and not anxiety. So that we will have even sever-mindedness to be those who prepare wisely and whose minds do not run away with what the moth or the thief or the rust or the fire might do.

Make us to see our love everywhere but make us to see it most of all in the cross of Jesus Christ. In his name, we ask it. Amen.