

Prayer Requests: **Thank you for praying for all our Pastors.** Please continue to pray for each other and for the needs of the people, remember your Deacons and Elders that we would live, and teach and serve the Lord with truth, boldness, tender hearts and reliance on Him.

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Matthew 6: 24-34 “Be Not Worried”

The Holy Spirit purpose of this passage is Christ teaches His people to trust in God who supplies all their needs.

// I was going to speak on Joseph then Steve did, then on temptation and a few week ago Ken did, finally I was going to speak on worry and low and behold Ken touched on the same thing last week using 2 of the very passages I’ll be using tonight//

Scripture Reading: Don

Mat 6:24 "**No one can serve two masters**; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Mat 6:25 "For this reason I say to you, **do not be worried** about your life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. **Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?**

Mat 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

Mat 6:27 "And who of you by **being worried** can add a *single* hour to his life?

Mat 6:28 "And **why are you worried** about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,

Mat 6:29 yet I say to you that **not even Solomon** in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.

Mat 6:30 "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith!

Mat 6:31 "**Do not worry** then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?'

Mat 6:32 "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for **your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.**

Mat 6:33 "**But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**

Mat 6:34 "So **do not worry** about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Introduction:

Today many are troubled by the cares of this world. They fret and stew over how they will get their next meal or how they will have clothes for their backs and meet the needs of their families. Many in America today fuss and toil over these temporal needs and some do not even know where their next meal is coming from.

Today I want to show the Christian **from scripture the importance of not worrying about food and clothing** and to focus your attention on the Lord and His work instead of the cares of this life.

* You may say to me but Neal you don't understand my situation, My husband left me and I am alone with these children, or my wife has moved out and we are in dire straits I have a job where I am working 12 hours a day and on call 24/7,

* or perhaps you may say my husband has passed away and I have no one to turn to and your heart is filled with grief.

* Perhaps you are here today and your health is failing and you wonder how is my family going to live and survive after I pass away.

* Perhaps you have school bills piling up and medical bills and more coming and you don't know how they are going to get paid.

* Perhaps you are alone, the kids have left the nest, there is no one else in your life.

My **hope today** is that **you take courage in the scriptures**, that the Lord reproves us for **our lack of faith** and **strengthens us with His promises**.

The title of this message is Be not worried, Let's take a look to identify:

1. A heart divided.

Our Lord clearly teaches that there is a problem when someone tries to serve two masters. Many people worry about how they will care for themselves in the future so they work hard to prepare for that, they plan, they have life insurance and a savings account; save their money for their future hoping to stay ahead of the tax man and growing inflation.

It is legitimate for people to save their money to have some for a rainy day. And the scriptures over and over speaks on the value of setting money aside and preparing through hard work and thought. Man's responsibility from the Garden of Eden was to **rule over the earth and sea** and to **subdue them Gen 1:28**. He was to learn all he could about God's creation. He was to work at it diligently. He was to be wise in his actions on how he subdued it, not wasteful but prudent with his time.

Listen to this from Proverbs 6 on preparing your work.

Proverbs 6:6 Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise,

Pro 6:7 Which, having no chief, Officer or ruler,

Pro 6:8 Prepares her food in the summer *And* gathers her provision in the harvest.

Pro 6:9 How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?
Pro 6:10 "A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest"--
Pro 6:11 **Your poverty will come in like a vagabond And your need like an armed man.**

The Ant **prepares and gathers** and our Lord call it **wise behavior** unlike like the lazy who bring poverty to themselves and family.

//The very Gospel itself is a message of **preparation** for the future to escape the fires of hell. It's a message of **repentance** from sin and **faith towards the God of scripture**. So the Lord calls us to prepare.

Jesus message when He started his early ministry was then and is today
Mar 1:15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe** in the gospel."//

But the message tonight **is about your heart attitude toward the things of this world.**

2. As we study this passage we need to ask the question: **"Who is master of your life tonight?"**

Let's look at the vs 24 and 25. Jesus is speaking and He says:

Mat 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Mat 6:25 "For this reason I say to you, **do not be worried** about your life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

Consider

a. Who is the **master of your desires?**" Does the love of money have control over you or the Love of Christ, because you can't have it both ways? Notice I **did not say money was evil** but **the love of money is the issue**. In Mark 10:17 a man came to Jesus and asked an important question

Mar 10:17b "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Mar 10:18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.

Mar 10:19 "You know the commandments, 'DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, Do not defraud, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.'"

Mar 10:20 And he said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these things from my youth up."

Mar 10:21 Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and **come, follow Me.**"

Mar 10:22 But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.

Mar 10:23 And Jesus, looking around, *said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!"

Mar 10:24 The disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus *answered again and *said to them, "**Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!**

Mar 10:25 "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

Mar 10:26 They were even more astonished and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?"

Mar 10:27 Looking at them, Jesus *said, "**With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.**"

You see in this example **that possessions had this man's heart** and he **was not willing to give up his property to be with Christ**. The message of Mark 10 and Matt 6 is the same: **No one can serve two masters**.

So I ask you this question:

Who has your heart today? Is it your Love for possessions or is it your Love for Christ? Does the love of Christ govern you? Are you devoted to Him and the His kingdom work in your life? Only God can help us with this problem. We need His strength to put him first.

Now consider,

b. Is your life **a life of self-sufficiency?** ...or is your life one of **dependence on Christ for your needs?** Because the way someone answers this question is key to the type of faith he has.

Self-Sufficiency says "I do not need God and His word to govern my life", "I have a brain and the ability to think and therefore don't need God." I know he is around but

as I used to say "**No one is ruling my life**"

The self-sufficient mind says: "I can do what I want to do, I can say what I want to say, I can run my life the way I want to run it and nobody is going to tell me what to do." "I don't need God to tell me what to do. Notice its arrogance

We can see it shown in the parallel passage in Luke 12, the Lord tells a parable of a man who is wealthy and greedy who takes no thought for his future:

Luk 12:15 Then He said to them, "**Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.**"

Luk 12:16 And He told them a parable, saying, "**The land of a rich man was very productive.**

Luk 12:17 "**And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?'**

Luk 12:18 "**Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.**

Luk 12:19 '**And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry."**

Luk 12:20 "**But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?'**

Luk 12:21 "**So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.**"

Our Lord says he is a fool. This man who put his trust in his wealth above Love for God's Kingdom and Righteousness.

3. Is your life one of faith or one of worry? Take courage dear Christian. Remember our Lord said **do not be worried** about your life, *as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?*

Most here have **hearts of Faith**. You Love our Lord with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind and all your strength, yet perhaps your heart is weighed down with the heavy burdens of life. You serve Him but you worry and have doubt about the cares of this world. Perhaps your life is bound up in cares and you worry about the future and your needs.

Well let's **define worry**:

“Worry is any faithless act or fear about the cares of life that robs God of His Glory and Influence.”

“Worry is any faithless act or fear about the cares of life that robs God of His Glory and Influence.”

A. Worry makes you focus on yourself and not on the power of God. This doesn't mean that you don't take stock in the situation you're dealt with, you do; but you should not fret over them.

Remember Your goal in the hard times is to do all to the **Glory of God**.

In the OT, Hezekiah had a problem (2 Kings 18 & 19)
Sennacherib, king of Assyria, sent a letter to Hezekiah along with a massive army to destroy Israel. The threats were real, they had already destroyed 9 nation and cities before them.

// **2Ki 19:12** 'Did the gods of those nations which my fathers destroyed deliver them, *even Gozan and Haran and Rezep and the sons of Eden who were in Telassar?*
2Ki 19:13 'Where is the king of **Hamath**, the king of **Arpad**, the king of the city of **Sepharvaim**, and *of Hena and Ivvah?*'" //

Let's look at Hezekiah's response:

2Ki 19:14 Then Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers and **read it**, and he **went up** to the house of the LORD and **spread it out before the LORD**.

2Ki 19:15 Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, **who are enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.**

2Ki 19:16 "Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and listen to the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to **reproach the living God**.

2Ki 19:17 "Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have devastated the nations and their lands
2Ki 19:18 and have cast their gods into the fire, for they were not gods but the work of men's hands, wood and stone. So they have destroyed them.

2Ki 19:19 "Now, O LORD our God, I pray, **deliver us** from his hand that **all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, O LORD, are God.**"

And God delivered Israel, 185,000 men were destroyed in one night

2Ki 19:32 "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, "He shall not come to this city or shoot an arrow there; neither shall he come before it with a shield, nor throw up a mound against it.

2Ki 19:33 "By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come to this city," declares the LORD.

2Ki 19:34 'For I will defend this city to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.'"

2Ki 19:35 Then it happened that night that the angel of the LORD went out, and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men rose early in the morning, behold, all of them were dead.

Hezekiah built up his faith by praying the **attributes of God**. Vs 15

O LORD, the God of Israel (God is a personal savior, Chosen nation)

Who are Enthroned above the Cherubim, (He is Holy ref to the ark of covenant)

You are **the God, You Alone** of all the **kingdoms of the earth. (sovereign)**

You have made heaven and earth (creator-His ownership, dominion authority)

He just did it. This is faith. When the odds are against you and persevere with God.

My friends don't let worry cripple your faith. Worry gets you focusing on your problem instead of looking to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Didn't Peter do this same thing, when Jesus was walking on the water during a storm, he **asked the Lord if he could come to him** and was **granted permission**. But what happened from Matt 14:25

Mat 14:25 **And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea.**

Mat 14:26 **When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.**

Mat 14:27 **But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."**

Mat 14:28 **Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."**

Mat 14:29 **And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.**

Mat 14:30 **But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"**

Mat 14:31 **Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and *said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"**

Notice Jesus didn't get angry with Peter He rescued him and pointed out his small faith. Peter turned his eyes off Christ. He saw the wind, he became frightened.

Notice also the grace of our Lord Jesus, He didn't chide him for sinking, He didn't say "Don't do that again" He didn't lecture on the importance of faith using a 3 point outline.

Peter cried out for help and the Lord saved him. Jesus took his fear away. He did not crush him **(a bruised reed He will not break)**

4. Learn the lesson of Faith from the lesser to the greater:

Mat 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?"

Mat 6:27 "And who of you by **being worried** can add a *single* hour to his life?"

Mat 6:28 "And **why are you worried** about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,

Mat 6:29 yet I say to you **that not even Solomon** in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.

Mat 6:30 "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith!"

Remember dear Christian

He who created you loves you,

He who feeds the birds of the air and covers the grasses of the field with flowers will also take care of you.

The parallel passage of this is

Luk 12:24 "Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; and they have no storeroom nor barn; and *yet* God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!"

One day I was having a hard day at work. Things were going bad, I thought my job was on the line and I didn't know what I was going to do. I was so overwhelmed I had to take a walk outside to my truck. There on the top corner of the build I saw this large black bird calling out and it reminded me of this verse. "Consider the ravens..." It was comforting to know that God will take care of His own.

When you go outside and hear the birds call, remember, He who hears the birds cry will also hear yours. (The birds still had to work, they had to get the seeds and worms God gave them.)

As you drive down the highway and see the flowers of the field, remember, He who clothed the field with flower will also supply your needs as you bring them to Him. (You too will have to work)

Your Savior who takes care of perishable things, will also take care of you who live for eternity. Beloved He chose you beloved before the foundation of the world.

Matt 6:31 says

Mat 6:31 "**Do not worry** then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?'"

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Mat 6:33 "**But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**"

Mat 6:34 "So **do not worry** about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

You can trust in Him. **Seek first** His kingdom and righteousness. Call out to him for your needs. He will take care of you. Don't live a life of unbelief like those who know not God.

Dear Christian, Live your life to His glory, when He bring difficulty in your life, recognize it, and take it back to Him in prayer. Don't let the sin of worry and fear have a foothold in your life, God will abundantly help you as you trust Him. He won't give you more than you can handle. He remembers our frame that we are but dust. Cry out as Peter says "Lord Save me"
God has given you precious promises to trust in. He says to:
Trust in Him at all times O people, Pour out your heart before Him. God is a refuge for us.

Proverbs 3:5 and 6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Phil 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Characteristics of Salvation

Remember He who saved you delights to be with you.

John 10:11 Jesus said **I am the good shepherd, the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.**

John 10:27-30 **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. "I and the Father are one."**

Luk 12:32 **"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.**

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, Eph 1:8 which He lavished upon us. ...

Notice these characteristics of Christ

1. He is your Creator. He made the heavens, the earth, and seas, all the creatures great and small. Gen 1
2. He is the Sovereign Lord who controls all things by the word of His power. Eph 1:18-23; Hebrews 1:3
3. He is the Holy One to fear, who has the keys to death and hell. Rev 1:18
4. He is the great High Priest who stands before the Father on your behalf making intercession for you. Heb 7:25-26
5. He is the Gracious one who only can forgive sins give you a clean conscience. Rom 3:24, Hebrews 9:14
6. He is the Rock of our Salvation, a Shelter to run to in times of difficulty. Ps 95:1, Ps 61:4
7. He is the Faithful provider. He will meet all your needs. Phil 4:19, 1 Cor 1:9, 1Cor 10:13
8. He is a God of Peace who quiets your soul. 1 Th 5:23, Ps 23:2
9. He is the wisdom of God who set the pattern of righteous, justice and equity in order for mankind to know how to live. 1 Cor 1:24, Prov 1:3, Rom 5:21,

Matt 12:18, Ps 96:10

10. He is full of Mercy, His forgiveness is continual. Luke 1:50, Rom 9:15 , Titus 3:5, 1Pet 1:3
11. He is the majestic one standing next to the Throne of God ready to receive His loved ones. Acts 7:55-56 Stephen.
12. He will take the Christian to Heaven and keep all His promises to you. Jn 14:3, 2Pet 1:4, Luk 16:17, Matt 5:18
13. And for those here today who do not know Christ, He is your eternal Judge whom you will face one day when there is no time to repent. Acts 10:42, Rom 2:16, 2 Tim 4:1

Application

1. Perhaps your that self-sufficient one who has rejected God in your life, and in your arrogance you have made yourself a god like the ones the king of Assyria destroyed. My dear friends you need to repent. You need to beg the Lord Jesus to have mercy on your soul and believe He died and rose for you. Don't let this day pass without casting all your sin on Him.
2. But You believers take courage as you begin your life each morning. Fill you morning with thankfulness. Thank Him for letting you sleep, thank Him for the day you are about to go through. Praise Him for his goodness and mercy to you. Thank Him for His holiness and ask to grow closer to Him today.
3. As you speak to your family or friends throughout the day pray for them. Thank the Lord for them, ask for wisdom to say the right things to them, pray for His strength to walk in His ways before them. The scriptures say that He will keep you in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Him because he trusts in Him.
4. Keep short accounts with God, as you sin with your lips, seek forgiveness from those you offend quickly, don't let the sun go down on it. Jesus said if you have sinned against your brother go make it right then offer you gifts to Him. Seek Him to help you make it right.
5. Ask Him for strength to accomplish His will and thank Him for it. Stay close to Him. Remember whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
6. Thank Him for saving you and giving you a place to spend eternity with Him. Thank Him for His kindness, He hasn't given us as we deserve. [Rom 2:4](#) ...the kindness of God leads you to repentance.
7. Seek His strength for the difficult and hard thing in life. When you or a loved one is facing death remember He has gone on before you and there He waits. He has "everlasting arms" of strength; He will not give you more than you can bear. Set your mind on Him and his word.
8. Pray for others and their care, Pray that God would deliver them from worry and cause them to trust in Him. Putting your mind on the care of others relieves you from the cares you have. God works that way.

Dear Christian, Take Hope in Your merciful Redeemer. Look to Him for all your needs. Pray to Him as you walk along the way, as you sit at your desk, as you speak with your love ones, as you speak with your co-workers, Seek the Lord and His strength, seek his face continually. He will help you, He who loves you with eternal love is faithful. You can turn all your care and anxiety on Him.

Don't be worried, Live life to the fullest for God's Glory; Love Him and the brethren; Walk in His ways. We do not know what tomorrow will bring but we can serve of Loving Creator today. We will close with this passage

Mat 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."