

“JESUS’ KINGDOM MANIFESTO”

BIG IDEA . . . Part 12:

True Worship by Trusting (Matt. 6:25-34)

INTRO: Matt. 5-7 (SOM) contains Jesus’ Kingdom Manifesto of the righteousness He requires of all who follow Him. It is a righteousness that is internal before external. It is a righteousness that exceeds all human expectations, which truly exposes our heart. Ch. 5 included how true righteousness is defined, received and practiced, esp. in how we relate to others. Ch. 6 describes the result of pursuing true righteousness, practicing true worship, which begins in the heart. Our relationship with our heavenly Father is life’s most important. Jesus mentions the “Father” 11 times in this chapter. That relationship must be prioritized (vv. 1-18) and protected (vv. 19-34).

6:1-18 Spiritual disciplines to practice - True worship by Giving, Praying, and Fasting.

6:19-34 True worship by investing (vv. 19-24) and trusting (vv. 25-34). Material dimensions – what NOT to worship falls into four sections. Last lesson looked at the first three sections, where Jesus gives three illustrations about God and money (vv. 19-24): Two treasures for heart to pursue, two perspectives on God and money, two possible masters to obey. Three truths (True Worship by Investing):

1. Use what God gives you NOW, to invest in the eternal (vv. 19-21)
2. When we see God is good and generous, we will be good and generous, too (vv. 22-23)
3. Serve and honor God as the only worthy master (v. 24)

ILL: Alexander the Great . . .

TODAY, in final section (vv. 25-34) Jesus continues to address the material and our struggle to worry over it. True worshippers trust.

“Why does Jesus close with the command to not worry?” (6 times)

Because (“therefore”) of what He has just stated: don’t accumulate excess, be generous, wisely invest your resources, serve others, etc. Jesus anticipates our push-back—If we do what He says and obey His challenge, it will be natural and easy to worry there will be enough left for me (family) and we could end up poor, naked, hungry, and homeless! So, He tells us: “God has got you so don’t worry!” To worry as a believer is to act like the “Gentiles” (unbelieving, worldly).

I. CAUSES OF WORRY (vv. 19-24)

- A. (vv. 19-21) Heart focused on temporal treasures
- B. (vv. 22-23) Mind has twisted perspective
- C. (v. 24) Our Will has submitted to a terrible master

II. WASTE OF WORRY (vv. 25-32) – Two Examples

Two examples: Look at God’s care and provision for the birds and the flowers.

- A. For the BIRDS (vv. 26-27) – They don’t know about next meal, but God provides for them. Learn from the birds — God takes care of them; they don’t worry. They still have to work to get it. They are at peace – we are more valuable to God than the birds (v. 26b). Also, worry doesn’t give us longer lives (maybe shorten them – v. 27)
- B. The FLOWERS (vv. 28-30) – God dresses (clothes) the lilies, doesn’t He? He’ll provide clothes for us, too (as He does the food). Our challenge is learning to be grateful for and be good stewards of the abundance He has entrusted to us. When did you last take a serious look in your pantry and closet? PLENTY!

Lesson: Since God provides for the birds and flowers, which are of less value than us, will He not also take care of us?

III. THE REMEDY FOR WORRY (vv. 31-34)

- A. REALIZE that worry is (vv. 30-32):
 1. Incompatible with faith (vv. 30-31) – Faith is His answer to “why do you worry?” Worry will never eliminate life’s troubles, but it will dissipate our strength and focus.
 2. Unworthy of a Christian (v. 32) – “Gentiles” (pagans, unbelievers, the worldly) run after these things. Worry is pagan. Pagans are materialistic. Worry denies the very goodness of God. He knows our needs (v. 8)
- B. RECOGNIZE that if we first seek after Him and His righteousness, He will provide all these things as well (v. 33). One of the great promises of the Bible. He is fully aware of what we need (v. 32b)
- C. TRUST GOD WITH THE FUTURE (v. 34). Worry is always about the future. Plan for tomorrow, but don’t worry. God never promises a trouble-free life, but He does offer us a worry-free life!

CONC: True worship invests in the eternal and trusts God for the temporal. Lam. 3:22-23; 1 Pet. 5:7; Ps. 37:25; Phil. 4:6-7. Amen!