



BEN WASHINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

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Wednesday Noon Bible Study

May 27, 2026

SERMON SERIES

“Kingdom Living: The Sermon on The Mount”

Part 6 – “Law of Worrying and Judging”

In The Gospel of Matthew chapter 6, Jesus continues the Sermon on the Mount by addressing the believer’s relationship with possessions, priorities, and anxiety. This passage contrasts earthly values with Kingdom values and teaches disciples to live by faith and dependence upon God.

Main Theme

Jesus teaches that citizens of the Kingdom must:

1. Store treasures in heaven
2. Maintain spiritual focus
3. Choose God over materialism
4. Trust God instead of living in worry

Matthew 6:19-24 KJV

19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. 22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. 23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great [is] that darkness! 24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

The place of material things: a warning against covetousness.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth: The ancient Greek more literally says do not treasure for yourself treasures on earth. The idea is that earthly treasure is temporary and fading away (where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal), but heavenly treasure is secure.

The issue isn’t that earthly treasures are intrinsically bad, but they are of no ultimate value either. If this is the case, then it is wrong for the disciple of Jesus to dedicate his life to continually expanding his earthly treasures.

Regarding material things the secret to happiness is **not more**, it is **contentment**.

In contrast, heavenly treasures are **everlasting and incorruptible**. Treasures in heaven give enjoyment now, in the contentment and sense of well-being that comes from being a giver. But their ultimate enjoyment comes on the other side of eternity.

Our material treasures will not pass from this life to the next; but the good that has been done for the kingdom of God through the use of our treasures lasts for eternity, and the work God does in us through faithful giving will last for eternity.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also: Jesus drew the conclusion that you can only have your treasure (and your heart) in one place; we can't store up treasure on earth and on heaven at the same time.

(Matthew 6:22-23) The choice between two visions.

The lamp of the body is the eye: Simply, the idea is that "light" comes into the body through the eye. If our eyes were blind, we would live in a "dark" world.

Here our Lord describes the eye as a lamp which lights the entire body. Our eyes are the entrance to our hearts and minds and, as such, they provide a doorway to our very souls. When He referred to "good" eyes, He meant eyes that not only see well, but also perceive well. It is not only what we see, but how we perceive what we see that makes the difference between **godliness** and **ungodliness**, between light and darkness. Bad eyes lead to bad perception, but if our eyes are good, our whole person will be illuminated. If we are in a lighted room, we see everything clearly. We can move around obstacles and locate whatever we're looking for. But walking in darkness results in stumbling, falling, and groping for some secure thing to hang on to.

Our eyes can be used to see that which is good or evil, that which is beneficial or harmful, and the things we see and perceive affect our whole being. If we perceive goodness, that will radiate outward from within our hearts and minds. But if we allow our eyes to linger on evil, we are so affected by what we see that darkness actually begins to emanate from within and can corrupt us and those around us.

If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light: The idea behind having a good eye is either being generous or being single minded. Both principles apply to the disciple's attitude towards material things.

Spiritual darkness is the state of a person who is living apart from God. The Old Testament book of Isaiah, in prophesying of the Messiah, speaks of a deep spiritual darkness that enveloped the people: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned" (Isaiah 9:2). This passage reappears in the New Testament, in Matthew 4:16, to announce that those who have come to know the God of Israel through His Son Jesus Christ are the ones who have been delivered from spiritual darkness and now walk in the light of God's life.

Matthew 6:25-34 KJV

25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his

glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, [shall he] not much more [clothe] you, O ye of little faith? 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day [is] the evil thereof.

In Matthew 6:25–34, part of the great Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks to His followers about trusting their heavenly Father’s provision. Jesus has just spoken on the necessity for kingdom servants to offer their total devotion to God, their Master (Matthew 6:19–24). Those who make an undivided commitment to the King, placing their absolute trust in Him, receive His unreserved care, protection, and provision in return. That is why Jesus told them, “Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear” (verse 25).

Jesus gives several reasons why we don’t need to be anxious or worry about the daily needs of this life. In Luke’s account of a similar sermon, Jesus states, “For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing” (Luke 12:23, NLT). The essence of life is so much more than **temporal concerns**. Food and clothing may be high on our priority list, but there are higher priorities. The primary concerns of the believer’s life are loving the Lord (Matthew 22:34–38), loving others (Matthew 22:39–40; 1 Corinthians 13:13; 1 John 4:21), and seeking first God’s kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

The place of material things: anxiety over material things. (Matthew 6:25)

Do not worry about your life: We should not get tangled up worrying about the things of this world, because our life is more than those things.

Do not worry: There is a difference between a godly sense of responsibility and an ungodly, untrusting worry. However, an ungodly, untrusting sense of worry usually masquerades as responsibility.

Is not life more than food: The worry Jesus spoke of debases man to the level of an animal who is merely concerned with physical needs. Your life is more, and you have eternal matters to pursue.

Example and arguments against worry. (Matthew 6:26-30)

Look at the birds of the air ... your heavenly Father feeds them: The birds are provided for by God, and if He takes care of them. Therefore, we should expect that God will take care of us.

- Yet take careful note: the birds don't worry, **but they do work**. Birds don't just sit with open mouths, expecting God to fill them.

The worry many people have over the material things of life is rooted in a low understanding of their value before God. They don't comprehend how much He loves and cares for them.

Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? Worry accomplishes nothing; we can add nothing to our lives by worrying. There may be greater sins than worry, but there are none more self-defeating and useless.

- If God so clothes the grass of the field: God even takes care of the grass of the field, so He will certainly take care of you. We are confident of the power and care of a loving heavenly Father.

Jesus comes to the crux of His teaching when He asks, "Why do you have so little faith?" (Matthew 6:30, NLT). Anxiousness and worry are the opposite of faith and trust. God's Word to us as believers is this: "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6–7, NLT). Peter encourages, "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you" (1 Peter 5:7, NLT). Jesus tells His disciples, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me" (John 14:1, NLT).

You have a heavenly Father that knows your needs. (Matthew 6:31-32)

Therefore do not worry: We are invited to know a freedom from the worry and anxiety that comes from undue concern about material things.

For after all these things the Gentiles seek: Jesus contrasted the life of those who do not know God and are separated from Him with those who do know God and receive His loving care. Those who know God should seek after other things.

Summary: Put God's kingdom first - He will take care of these things! (Matthew 6:33)

But seek first the kingdom of God: This must be the rule of our life when ordering our priorities. Yet it is wrong to think that this is just another priority to fit onto our list of priorities - and to put at the top. Instead, in everything we do, we seek first the kingdom of God.

- For example, we rarely have to choose between honoring God and loving our wives or being good workers. We honor God and seek first the kingdom of God by being good husbands and good workers.

Jesus didn't just tell them to stop worrying; He told them to replace worry with a concern for the kingdom of God. A habit or a passion can only be given up for a greater habit or passion.

And all these things shall be added to you: If you put God's kingdom first, and do not think that your physical-well being is a worthy object to live your life for, you then may enjoy all these things. He promises heavenly treasure, rest in divine provision, and fulfillment of God's highest purpose for man - fellowship with Him, and being part of His kingdom.

This choice - to seek first the kingdom of God - is the fundamental choice everyone makes when they first repent and are converted. Yet every day after that, our Christian life will either reinforce that decision or deny it.

Practically speaking, how can we seek first His righteousness?

Cultivate a Life of Prayer

Prayer is essential to seeking God's kingdom and His righteousness (Jeremiah 29:12–13; Philippians 4:6–7). Through prayer, we connect with God, seek His guidance, and reorient our hearts with His desires. As we dedicate time each day to spend with Him, not only making requests but also listening to His voice, we grow closer to Him and more like Jesus.

Study and Meditate on Scripture

God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a guiding light to our path (see Psalm 119:105). By immersing ourselves in the Bible, we come to understand His character, His promises, and His expectations. Regular study, meditation, and internalization of Scripture will equip us to live righteously and resist the temptations of the world.

Practice Obedience

The Bible says that faith without works is dead (see Matthew 7:21–23; Titus 3:8; James 1:27; 2:14–26). Seeking His righteousness requires us to act on what we learn from God’s Word. We choose to reflect His love and truth, even when it is difficult or countercultural.

Serve Others

Jesus exemplified servanthood, washing His disciples’ feet and sacrificing Himself for humanity. We seek first His righteousness by serving others selflessly, demonstrating Christ’s love through our actions, helping those in need, and showing kindness in tangible ways.

Participate in the Community of Faith

Fellowship with other believers is crucial. It strengthens our faith and keeps us accountable. We come together in community to foster spiritual growth, offer support during challenging times, and provide opportunities for mutual care, love, and encouragement (see Acts 2:42; Ephesians 4:15–16; Hebrews 10:24–25).

A conclusion with common sense. (Matthew 6:34)

Do not worry about tomorrow: If you must worry, worry only for the things of today. Most of our worry is over things that we have absolutely no control over anyway, and is therefore foolish as well as harmful.

Sufficient for the day is its own trouble: Jesus reminds us of the importance of living for the present day. It isn’t wrong to remember the past or plan for the future; to some degree both of those are good. Yet it is easy to become too focused on either the past or the future and to let the day and its own trouble be ignored. God wants us to remember the past, plan for the future, but live in the present.

The cares of this life dominate the thoughts of unsaved people, but Jesus reassures His followers that their heavenly Father already knows what they need (Matthew 6:32). We can have confidence in His care if we are wholly devoted to Him. If we “seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously,” God will provide for our needs (Matthew 6:33, NLT). What is more, He “will keep in perfect peace all who trust in [Him], all whose thoughts are fixed on [Him]!” (Isaiah 26:3, NLT).

Finally, Jesus says, “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today” (Matthew 6:34, NLT). Jesus keeps hammering the point because He understands our human weakness and tendency to concentrate on the problems of this world rather than trust in God, the sovereign ruler of this world. “But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit” (Jeremiah 17:7–8, NLT).

We are told, “Do not worry about your life,” because this world is not our home, and this life is not our ultimate destination (John 18:36; 2 Corinthians 4:17–18; 5:1–15; Romans 8:18–23; Colossians 1:4–5). We can stop stressing about tomorrow because God holds the rest of our days in His hands (Jeremiah 29:11; Psalm 23). In everything, He is working out His good plan for our lives (Romans 8:28–34). We are secure in the Father’s loving grip (Psalm 55:22; 94:18–19; Romans 8:35–39).