1 – Winning The War Over Worry

Matthew 6:25-34

2 - **The Goal & The Reality**

The Goal: “*Undistracted devotion to the Lord*” (1 Corinthians 7:35; 2 Timothy 2:3-4; 1 Kings 8:61)

The Reality: Satan knows how to interrupt, distract & unsettle us. (Psalms 55:1-7; Luke 10:38-42)

3 - **God’s Command**

Do not be anxious! (Matthew 6:25-34; Phil. 4:6)

Why preach on this?

* Because it’s sinful and can cost our souls!
* **Because the temporal consequences are severe too! Living with a heavy heart (Proverbs 12:25) robs of us of what we need to accomplish! (Matthew 13:22)**

4 - **What is the context of Matthew 6:25ff?**

* In the Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus focused on the kingdom He came to establish.
* In the immediate context, Jesus had just taught of the need to *“store up for yourselves treasures in heaven”* (vs. 20) and the need to commit to & serve just one Master (vs. 24).

5 - **What is the context?**

Note the beginning of vs. 25, *“For this reason I say to you…”* What reason(s)?

* Because you can’t serve two masters!
* Because your storing up treasures in heaven!
* Because your vision is clear.
* Because you serve to be seen by your heavenly Father and not men!

6 - **The Contrasts of Matthew Chapter 6**

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| **Text** | **Kingdoms of men** | **Kingdom of Jesus Christ** |
| **6:1-18** | Reward on earth - now | Reward in heaven – later |
| **6:1-18** | To be seen by men | To be seen by our heavenly Father |
| **6:19-21** | Treasures on earth | Treasures in heaven |
| **6:22-23** | Eye is bad – full of darkness | Eye is clear – full of light |
| **6:24** | Serving the master of wealth | Serving the Master – our heavenly Father |
| **6:25-34** | Worried and anxious | Trusting- seeking 1st His kingdom & righteousness |

7 - **Why shouldn’t we worry?**

1. **Because God is our Creator and knows our needs**.   
   (vs. 25-26, 28-30, 32; Phil. 4:11-13, 19; 1 Pet. 5:7;   
   2 Corinthians 12:10; Isaiah 40:3-4)

* Argument from the lesser to the greater.
* Do you trust Him? (Philippians 4:4-6; cf. Acts 27:22-25)
* Granted, we must do our part! (Matt. 7:7)

8 - **Why shouldn’t we worry?**

1. Because it doesn’t accomplish anything.

* *“And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?”* (vs. 27; cf., Psalms 39:5)
* Worry itself doesn’t change anything!
* Don’t concern yourself with what you can’t control.
* “Would it help?”

9 - **Why shouldn’t we worry?**

1. Because it’s what those who don’t know God do.

* *“For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things…”*(vs. 32)
* If this world is all you have… (Matthew 6:1-2, 5)
* “Does Jesus Care?” - (Psalms 46:1-3; 145:14-21; Romans 8:31ff)

10 - **Why shouldn’t we worry?**

1. Because I can’t put *“the kingdom of God and His righteousness”* first when I do! (vs. 33)

* What have I allowed to take priority?   
  (Luke 10:38-42; Hebrews 12:1-2)
* What is truly “*necessary*”? (Eccles. 12:13;   
  Acts 10:35; Mark 12:30; Philippians 3:13-14)

11 – **Why Shouldn’t We Worry?**

1. Because worrying about tomorrow robs us of today!   
   (vs. 34, “…*each day has enough trouble of its own*.”)

* We can’t walk by faith when overcome by worry.
* There’s much to do, there’s work on every hand!
* Make the most of today! (Ephesians 5:15-18;   
  Colossians 4:3-6; Psalms 90:10-12)

12 - **What should concern us?**

* “*The Churches*” and the “*welfare*” of his brethren (2 Cor. 11:28; Phil. 2:19-21; Acts 15:36)
* The salvation of souls (Romans 10:1)
* The response to the gospel (2 Corinthians 7:5-7)
* Not the “stuff” of this life (Philippians 4:11-13)
* Not his personal well being (2 Cor. 1:8-9;   
  Acts 16:25)

13 - **What should concern us?**

* Whether you are prepared to meet your God? (Amos 4:12; Matthew 25:1-13; 2 Cor. 5:10; Hebrews 9:27)
* Whether there is unforgiven sin in your life   
  (Acts 2:38; 8:20-24) that has separated you (Isaiah 59:1-2; Luke 15:18-21) from your heavenly Father?