

The School of Christ

Lesson 3

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Matthew 6:25-34

Living the good life and living a good life pull in opposite directions. One cannot serve both God and wealth.

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- › A unit from the Sermon on the Mount: dealing with the tension of anxiety and faith

I. 'Therefore'

Matthew 6:19-25

WHAT IS YOUR BEHAVIOUR?

- › Storing up treasures (v19-20)
- › What is your treasure?

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- › Your behaviour flows from what you see (v22-23)
- › 'if your eye is healthy' (v22); 'if your eye is unhealthy' (v23)
- › What are you looking at/ desiring/ coveting

SEEING > YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE

- > What do you give yourself to or serve? (v24)
- > Wealth = mammon - not reduced simply to money - it speaks to anything which can become an idol (a substitute for God)

II. An Invitation to Trust in God

Matthew 6:26-32

WHAT ABOUT WORRY?

- > In the school of Christ we are not to be controlled by worry

TWO POETIC EXAMPLES

1. 'Birds of the air' - see how God provides for them (v26-27)
2. 'Flowers of the field' - see how they blossom without toiling (v28-30)

NOT MEANING IRRESPONSIBILITY

- > It speaks to our compulsive anxiety using poetic language
- > Our inveterate desire for security, and/or control no matter what

NOT AS THE GENTILES

- > Those who have no faith in the Heavenly Father (v26,32)
- > Theirs is a continued scrambling to control all the details of life

LOOK

- › Really look, pay attention (v26)
- › See God's providing handiwork

CONSIDER

- › 'to learn' - as a disciple of God
- › Not a casual glance

III. Seeking First the Kingdom

Matthew 6:33-34

But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33

SEEK RELATIONSHIP

- › Seek a relationship with the Heavenly Father (v33)
- › Before anything else - first seek God

NO SUBSTITUTES

- › Don't substitute greed for God - a seeking after material things first - food, drink, clothing, things

NOT CONTROLLED BY ANXIETY/WORRIES

- › Such restless anxiety flows from a restless heart
- › Often related to status, privilege, security

LIVE IN THE CONFIDENCE OF RELATIONSHIP

- › Live one day at a time trusting God's hand - knowing God
- › Not rolling around in the future
- › Stay connected to today

IV. Going Forward

1. A CAUTION

- › Beware of a devotion to 'mammon' in our materialistic age
- › There is a need for a self-audit: check our own spending on such things as food, drink, clothes, purchases

2. BE AWARE

- › The passage invites us to raise our awareness of those who are involuntarily poor - How are we helping those in daily need?
- › Be instruments of peace and provision to others

3. THE POWER AND LOVE OF GOD

- › We are invited to enter into the power + love of our Heavenly Father
- › Check the spirit of cynicism + despair of our age - live as people of hope in a desperate world

JESUS: OUR CENTRE

- › Don't neglect our fundamental calling and vocation - make Jesus our centre as we live out our days
- › Give Jesus the little stressors that recur and chip away at our sense of peace