

Extra Teaching Points

Chapter 10

Matt. 6:19-34

Q: What do we tend to measure quality of life by?

- Answer: Usually Comfort and Length.
 - When we consider the quality of someone's life, the standard metric is to ask if they lived with comfort and did they live a long time.
 - Money is usually thought to be needed to achieve comfort and long life.
 - [Eccl. 10:19](#) Solomon said money was the answer for everything.

[Matt. 6:19-21](#)

Jesus is pointing out a basic conflict here.

- Most people are driven by a desire for a high quality of life.
 - One of the major influences on human behavior, whether for good or evil, is the "values" a person adopts.
 - If a person adopts the pursuit of comfort and long life as their values, he or she will be strongly tempted to seek those things in the way a typical worldly person would normally seek them.

Jesus wants us to have different values, and to realize that a quality life is not necessarily measured by its comfort level, longevity, and security here in this world.

- **A quality life is one that lasts forever in eternity and has eternal comforts.**
 - A person who values and seeks a spiritual quality of life will sometimes not have much comfort, security, or longevity here in this world.
- [Luke 12:16-21](#) & [Col. 3:1-4](#) tells us we need a different value system.

Q: Is there anything wrong with having more than we need?

- One way to understand Jesus' command to not lay up treasures is to reject anything other than what you need for survival.
 - Some call this a vow of poverty.
 - The disciples didn't seem to live this way (Peter owned a house).
 - They were not rich men, but they had more than they needed for one day at a time.
- The other way to understand Jesus' command is to consider that He is using a "limited negative" when He says, "*Don't do this, but do that.*"
 - It is a Hebraism that means "not only this, but also that."
 - An example of this can be found in [John 6:27](#).
 - It is possible Jesus is saying, "*Do not only store up treasures here on earth, but also store up treasures in Heaven.*"

Jesus teaches that poverty should be accepted, but He doesn't demand it.

- If following Jesus results in poverty, we should be content with that ([1Tim. 6:8](#)).
- [1Tim. 6:17-19](#) The rich aren't told to surrender their wealth, but not to trust their wealth.
 - Paul even says God gives us things to enjoy ([vs. 17](#)).

So either Jesus is saying:

1. Wealth is wrong.
2. Or He is using a limited negative, and saying to not only lay up treasures on earth.
3. Or Jesus may be emphasizing not to be selfish.

Any of these 3 understandings goes against the grain of our society.

Extra thoughts on Treasure:

A concern for treasures has got to be a concern for your heart.

- This seems to be the focus in the beatitudes:
 - *Blessed are the pure in heart,*
 - *Blessed are the poor in spirit.*
- This seems to be the focus in the law:
 - Don't commit murder; but also your heart shouldn't commit murder.
 - Don't commit adultery; but also your heart shouldn't commit adultery.
 - Your religious deeds should be done from the heart, and not from a desire to be seen by men.

Jesus is after "heart religion." The internal... not just the externals.

- If you lay up treasures on earth your heart will be in those treasures here on earth. If you lay up treasures in heaven your heart will be in those treasures in heaven.
 - [Prov. 4:21](#) says the heart is the most important thing to guard.
 - [1John 2:15-17](#) says if we love the world, we don't love the Father.
- To set your heart on things of this world is to be a fool.
 - You can't just flip a switch when those treasures are gone, and decide to love something else.
 - We condition and train our hearts to love, crave, and pursue what we value.
 - If you have an old car you don't value much, you tend not to worry about it much.
 - But if you buy a new, expensive car, you tend to be very protective, possessive, and focused on it more than you were the old one.
 - Your heart gets all caught up with worries and anxieties about this "thing."
- When you possess something that is highly valued in the world, it's hard not to highly value it yourself.
- If you have few things on earth, then your heart will not be taken up with things on earth.

[Matt. 6:22-23](#)

Q: What does it mean to have a good eye or a bad eye?

- An "evil eye" is a Hebrew idiom for a greedy heart.
 - [Duet. 15:9](#); [Prov. 23:6](#) ("*miser*" literally means one who has an evil eye); [Prov. 28:22](#); [Matt. 20:15](#)
- A "good eye" is an idiom for generosity. [Prov. 22:9](#).
- **Jesus is talking about being greedy... or generous.**
 - Laying up treasures on earth is being greedy.
 - Storing up treasures in Heaven is being generous ([Matt. 19:21](#); [Luke 12:33](#)).

Your attitude toward money will affect your whole life.

- It determines if your life will be in darkness or light.
 - Both "eye" and "body" are figures of speech.
 - "Eye" represents your heart, and "body" represents your life.
 - Having a life filled with light is a better quality of life than having your life filled with darkness.

[Matt. 6:24](#)

You can't serve God like a slave if you are a slave to money. A slave can only have one master.

- A master dictates your behavior.
 - You will have only one master... and that master will dictate what you do, where you go, 2

and how your life is used.

- If desire for money is dictating your behavior, then God will not be able to dictate your behavior.

Extra thoughts on Money

Money and God are rival gods!

- Covetousness is idolatry ([Col. 3:5](#); [Eph. 5:5](#)).
 - If you work a job, it's supposed to be the job God wants you to work.
 - The money you earn is His money, and you are to use it the way He wants you to use it.
 - If you quit the job, it should be because He wants you to quit.
 - The hours you work are to be the hours He wants you to work.
 - While others, even your boss, may see you as working for money, you are to see yourself as working for God.

When you recognize this difference, you never have to worry about money again!

- If you are serving God, you look to Him not only for instructions, but also for provisions.
 - A slave not only serves His master, but he is supported by His master.
- If you serve money, you look to money to give you directions and to provide for your needs.
 - If you serve money, you depend on a job; you depend on the stability of the economy; you depend on the whole “money system” for your security.
- God calls some people away from their jobs, like Jesus did when He called the apostles to follow Him.
 - We should be content to work for less money if God calls us to.
 - High income or low income, our money belongs to God, and we depend on Him.
- **If we view money as “ours”, then money is all we can depend on.**
 - **We can't have two masters!**

[Matt. 6:25](#)

Jesus now begins to talk about issues of survival; not just quality of life issues.

Jesus forbids us to worry several times in the next several verses ([Matt. 6:25](#), [27](#), [28](#), [31](#), [34](#)).

- Worry is a sin because it is the opposite of faith ([Heb. 11:1](#)).
 - Also in [Matt. 6:30](#) He addresses those who worry as those with little faith.
- To the degree you have faith, you don't worry. To the degree you worry, you don't have faith.

Worry is the same thing as being anxious ([Phil. 4:6](#)).

- Worry, like all sins, is a choice.
 - Just telling someone to stop worrying won't necessarily help them stop.
 - **Worrying is caused by a lack of faith in God.**
- Jesus gives us many good reasons not to worry, and they are all about faith.

Jesus gives arguments or reasons for us not to worry.

- Do you have life? Yes. Where did you get that? God.
- Do you have a body? Yes. Where did you get that? Got that from God too.
- Ok, you got life and a body from God. Isn't life greater than food, and a body greater than clothing?
 - If God has given you life and a body, which are big deals, won't He also give you food and clothing?
 - Those are not difficult things for Him to do compared to giving you life and a body.
 - If God has invested in you enough to give you life and a body, do you think He's not going to supply you with food and clothing?

Jesus' first argument is from greater to lesser.

- God's given you the greater; won't He give you the lesser?

[Matt. 6:26](#)

Jesus' second argument is from lesser to greater.

- The birds and the grass are lesser than you.
- God takes care of them; won't He take care of you?

Extra Thoughts on Worry:

Some might be critical of Jesus' argument citing that birds sometimes starve; but no bird ever starves until God wants it to for His purposes ([Matt. 10:29](#), [Luke 12:6](#)).

- Jesus is starting from the assumption that you want the will of God.
 - If you want the will of God to be done, then don't worry... He'll take care of all the details.
 - If God wants you alive, He knows how to do that.
 - He does that with birds and grass, and He knows how to do that with you too.
- **Worry starts kicking in when we are not so set on God's will being done.**
 - **Worry hits when we start wanting our own will to be done.**

[Matt. 6:27-30](#)

Jesus' third argument against worrying is "what good will it do?"

- Worry is usually a mindset that concerns itself about things beyond our control.

[Matt. 6:31](#)

Worry is appropriate for non-Christians!

- They are on their own.
 - They have a different kingdom and different King.

It is inappropriate for people who know God to engage in an activity which is only appropriate for those who don't know God.

- When a Christian worries, it is an insult to God.
- Either the Christian **doesn't trust God's ability** or **questions God's will**.

[Matt. 6:32](#)

Jesus' fifth argument against worrying is that God is already on the job.

- God already knows the things you need and is taking care of it.
 - God knew what you needed probably before you knew what you needed.
- **If God is on the job and knows what you need, then why do you need to worry about it?**

[Matt. 6:33](#)

Jesus' 6th argument against worry is that worry is unnecessary if you are seeking the Kingdom of God.

- If you are seeking the Kingdom of God, all the other necessary things will be given to you.
- **Worrying is putting your energies to work in the wrong direction.**
 - If you put your energies into seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, all the other things will come to you in the course of doing that.

[Matt. 6:34](#)

Jesus' 7th argument against worry is that you don't need to borrow trouble.

- Each day we have the right number of problems, so we don't need to jump ahead to

tomorrow's list.

- We have enough going on today to occupy our energies, but you can give yourself more trouble than you need.
- God gives us what we need for each day.
 - When tomorrow gets here, He will supply whatever we need to face the trouble in that day.
- God has not given you the grace today for the problems that come tomorrow.
 - You'll get that grace when you need it; not before.
- **Deut. 29:29 Things that have not been revealed belong to the Lord; not us.**
 - One of the "secret things" is what's going to happen tomorrow.
 - Worrying is about trying to anticipate what's going to happen.
 - **That's trying to steal things that don't belong to me.**
- God only intends for you to have a certain amount of trouble each day.
 - When you worry, you get today's problems and tomorrow's problems... and you'll have them tomorrow too!
 - If "X" might happen tomorrow and you worry about it, not knowing if it will happen or not, then what if it doesn't happen?
 - You've wasted time and effort on something useless.
 - If "X" is going to happen tomorrow, you won't stop it by worrying about it.
 - Either way, you are wasting your time and energy.
 - Usually you are just making life more difficult than it has to be.

Chapter 10 Follow Up Assignment

Q: Take a look at the last week. Where did you spend most of your time and money?

- What does this tell you about where your treasure is?

Q: Would Jesus say you have a "good eye" or a "bad eye?"

Q: How much do you worry? What do you worry about?

- Which of Jesus' 7 arguments against worrying speaks loudest to you?