

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Study #11 (Updated 8-11-17)

Matt. 6:19-34 (NIV)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. ²⁵ Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Q: How do we tend to measure quality of life?

- Usually by Comfort and Length.
 - Most people are driven (for good or evil) by a desire for what they consider to be a high quality of life.

Q: How does the normal idea of “quality of life” conflict with Jesus’ teaching? (vs. 19-21)

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

Q: Is Jesus calling us to be poor and own nothing on this earth?

- Not really. The disciples were not rich men, but they had more than they needed for one day at a time. Peter even owned a house (**Matt. 8:14**).
- Jesus is using a “limited negative” when He says, “*Don’t do this, but do that.*”
 - It’s a Hebraism that means “*not only this, but also that.*” (ex. **John 6:27**)
 - Jesus is saying, “*don’t 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**).
 - In **1Tim. 6:17-19**, the rich aren’t told to surrender their wealth, just not to trust their wealth.

Q: Why is it so important to store up treasure in Heaven?

- Because your heart will be where your treasure is!
 - If you store up treasures on earth, your heart will be in those treasures here on earth. If you store up treasures in heaven, your heart will be in those treasures in heaven. To set your heart on things of this world, is to be a fool.
- **Prov. 4:21** says, the heart is the most important thing to guard. We condition and train our hearts to love, crave, and pursue what we value.
 - **EXAMPLE:** 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".

Q: What does Jesus mean when He talks about having a "healthy eye" or an "unhealthy eye"?

- An "*unhealthy eye*" (or an "*evil eye*") is a Hebrew idiom for a greedy heart (**Deut. 15:9; 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.
 - Storing 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.
 - Having a life filled with light, is a better quality of life, than having your life filled with darkness!

Q: Why does Jesus say you can't serve both God and money?

- Money and God are rival gods!
 - You will have only one master... and that master will dictate what you do, where you go, and how your life is used.
 - If the desire for money is dictating your behavior, then the desire for God will not be able to dictate your behavior.

Q: Why is worry a sin, and how can we stop worrying?

- Because it is the opposite of faith (**Heb. 11:1**).
 - 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**); and it's an insult to God.
 - Either you don't trust God's ability, or you question God's will; both are an insult!
- Worry, like all sins, is a choice; but just telling yourself to stop worrying won't necessarily help... you have to consciously choose to trust God!
 - Some might be critical of Jesus' argument about God feeding birds, because sometimes birds starve. But no bird ever starves until God wants it to for His purposes (**Matt. 10:29; Luke 12:6**).
 - If you want the will of God to be done, then don't worry... He'll take care of all the details.
 - We **start worrying** when we are not set on God's will being done.
Worry really kicks in when we **start wanting our will to be done!**
 - Worry is appropriate for non-Christians because they're on their own. They have a different kingdom, and a different King.
 - But if you are seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness as your highest priority, then you have nothing to worry about! (**Vs. 33**)

Q: Why does Jesus say, each day has enough trouble, so don't worry about tomorrow?

- He's telling us not to borrow trouble from tomorrow.
 - If "X" **MIGHT** happen tomorrow, and you worry about it, (not knowing if it will happen or not), 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, and making life more difficult than it has to be.
- 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.
 - Each day we have the right number of problems, so we don't need to jump ahead to tomorrow's list.
- **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.
- When you worry, you get today's problems **and** tomorrow's problems... and you'll have them again tomorrow too!

What About You?

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 "healthy eye" ... or an "unhealthy eye"?

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

- What would trusting God with those worries look like?