

## MONEY MATTERS: The Real Problem

1.20.08

### Do Not Be Anxious:

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Matthew 6:25-34 ESV

v. 25 Command and Question: “...do not be anxious...is not life more than...?”

v. 26 Example and a Question: “...birds of the air...are you not more valuable...”

### Worry is Deceptive (v.25-26).

v. 27 “add a single hour to your life”

### Worry is Worthless (v.27).

v.28-29 Example and Question “...lilies...but if God...clothe you”

v. 30 Jesus gets to the real problem—a lack of faith in God.

### Worry is Telling (v. 28-30).

**If you are worried about money, the *real problem* is not a financial problem. It is a faith problem.**

Faith Problems that Manifest themselves as Fear (that leads to worry):

1. Fear there won't be enough (our/not our fault)—easily/not easily fixable
2. Fear God won't provide—God's promises aren't true, His character
3. Fear that what God has given is not enough—discontentment, greed
4. Fear of Man—identity issues, what others say/think of us is more important what God says/thinks.
5. Fear that God isn't enough—idolatry, covetousness

*What are you afraid of today when it comes to money?*

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v. 31 “Therefore, do not be anxious...” Again...stop worrying!

v. 32 Two more explanations.

1. That's what the pagans do. That's not who you are anymore.
2. God knows that you need them.

**The solution for the *real problem* is to ‘Seek first the Kingdom’ of God—put God first.**

**“God, what do you want done in this situation?”**

### Action Steps:

#### 1. Put God “first” in every area of your life.

- a. Begin following Jesus or seek to move forward with Him.
- b. The Gospel is the answer for all of us.
  - i. Am I seeking to ‘put God first’ (do what God wants done) in a given situation?
    1. The Bible—God's Word
    2. The Holy Spirit within, guiding us

#### 2. Know and do this in regard to money.

- a. Big Truth: God owns everything. We are simply His stewards.
  - i. Do I know what good stewardship (what the Bible teaches about money) looks like? Am I walking in it? If not, what do I need to do to take the next step in the right direction?
    1. Equipping, resourcing, etc.
    2. Accountability, mentoring, etc.
- b. Deal with Heart Issues through Applying the Gospel:
  - i. Constant reminder of the ultimate reason you can trust God.
  - ii. Deal with your heart issues of discontentment, greed. Podcast.
  - iii. Reminds us that Jesus is enough—if God dealt with the sins...
  - iv. Reminds us that we should give and why we give.
    1. How do I specifically need to apply the Gospel in my finances?

### Bible Bites for Teaching Your Family at Home:

- Worry about money (or anything else) isn't helpful. In fact, it is a sin!
- Worry reveals our real problem—a lack of faith in God. Jesus is the answer.
- Jesus tells us to ‘seek first the Kingdom’ (put God first) and He will make sure we have what we need to live on.
- The first way we seek first the Kingdom is by becoming a Christian.

Visit [www.crossinglouisville.com](http://www.crossinglouisville.com) for more helpful resources, including videos.

*Works Consulted* : NIV Application Commentary, Life Application Bible, Expositor's Bible Commentary, MacArthur Study Bible, Bible Promise Books