



Sermon Notes

June 22, 2008
Tim Strickland

Where Your Treasure Is... #14
Do not be Anxious about your Life
Matthew 6:25-34

Matthew 6:25-34 "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.

Introduction

Today: "**Do not be Anxious about your Life**", Final Message (#14) in "Where Your Treasure Is", a series about God, money & you

- Don't Worry, Be Happy!

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1. Do not be anxious about your life

- a. Definition: "worried or troubled; uneasy in the mind" (Source: Canadian Oxford Dictionary 2nd Ed.)
- b. Some other warnings against anxiety in the Bible
 - **Luke 10:41** – Martha was "*anxious and troubled about many things*"
 - **2 Tim. 2:4** – *No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits* ('entangled' has the same underlying Gr. Word as anxious)
 - **Philippians 4:6-7** ⁵*Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*
- c. The things about which we are most anxious (25, 27, 31)
 - Food and drink
 - Our bodies and our clothing
 - How long we will live

2. Why should you not be anxious about your life?

Six Reasons: *Note: "Therefore" in v25 points us back to vv19-24*

1. Being anxious about earthly concerns contradicts Jesus' command to be concerned with eternal rewards (19-21)
2. Being anxious pushes us to serve money instead of serving God (24)
3. Being anxious makes it appear that we believe life is no more than food and that the body is no more than clothing (25b)
4. Being anxious doesn't work (27)
5. There is enough trouble for today, without worrying about tomorrow. Tomorrow will worry about itself (34)
6. Being anxious betrays a lack of trust in our Heavenly Father.
 - Look at nature
 - '*birds of the air*' (26)
 - '*grass of the field*' (28-30)
 - If your Heavenly Father takes care of them, He can take care of you, who are of greater value than birds or grass!
 - '*O you of little faith*' (see also Mt. 8:26, 14:31, 16:8)
 - When you are anxious you act like an unbeliever (see also Rom. 12:2, Mt. 13:22, seed sown in thorns choked by '*cares of the world*' – 'cares' is from the same Gr. Word for anxious as our passage today) (32a)
 - Your heavenly Father knows your needs (32b)
 - Always remember who your Father is!

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3. But...!!! What about...?!!! Misunderstandings...

(with many thanks to John Stott, *Sermon on the Mount*, pp165-168)

1. I don't have to work or plan, because it would show a lack of faith in God
 - God provides for the birds – but they have to work to gather their food
 - God provides for the grass, but their internal systems still have to produce their 'clothing'
 - As we have seen in this series, hard work is commended in Scripture – you reap what you sow. The key is knowing that all good things come from God, not from you
2. If God provides for believers, why are so many around the world lacking proper food and clothing, or suffering in other ways?
 - Is it right to blame God for our sinfulness in not providing for others as He has commanded for us to do?
 - The promise here is not that God always feeds us, clothes us, and removes all troubles, but that He knows our needs and it is His job to worry about them, not ours! If He does not provide for a specific need when we think we need it, He does so for His greater purposes, and we need to trust Him.
 - Note that Jesus faced great troubles ahead when He spoke this sermon, as He headed towards the cross

4. The Remedy for Being Anxious (33)

- a. *But seek first the kingdom of God*
 - We must first seek the Lord's kingdom (His reign)
 - **Matthew 6:10** "*Thy kingdom come*" (KJV)
 - This necessarily implies evangelistic outreach, so that His reign may spread.
- b. *and his righteousness*
 - We must first seek God's righteousness
 - **Matthew 5:6** "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*"
 - Holiness is to be a concern of every Christian, seeking for Christ to produce His righteousness in us
- c. *and all these things will be added to you*
 - We can't add an hour to our life by worrying, but God can add all we need to us as we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness
- d. Being '*anxious about your life*' involves a misplaced focus on yourself instead of God's kingdom and righteousness. Our concerns should be about God's kingdom and righteousness, not our own lives.

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Our Response

1. Confess your sin of being anxious about your own life to God.

1 John 1:9-10 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [10] If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2. Ask God to help you as you *seek first His kingdom and his righteousness*.

Matthew 7:7 "*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*"

Questions for Application

1. The Bible teaches that people often worry about food and drink, clothing for their bodies, and even about the length of their lives. Discuss examples of this in our world today. Discuss how anxiety in this life is a natural consequence of rejecting the reign of Christ.
2. What causes you to be anxious?
3. Why is worrying about your life wrong (see point #2 in today's message)?
4. Are you actively seeking the reign of Christ in your life and in the lives of others? Are you seeking His righteousness in your life (see Mt. 5:6)
5. How has this series, "Where your Treasure Is", challenged you the most? What changes have you begun to make in your life through the teaching of God's Word that you have received? What changes do you need to make?
6. Pray together for one another that the Lord would help you to experience His reign in every area of your life and to obey His word in the way you handle your money, and everything else that the Lord has entrusted to you.

Questions, Comments? - inthebeginning@look.ca

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please drop me an email to the address above. Thanks,

Tim



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