

UNEXPECTED PEACE

Lesson 6

Matthew 6:19–34

RECAP

Take a moment to share about your experience with last week’s “Spiritual Practice” and “On Mission” sections.

BIG IDEA

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” is a pretty well-known statement. And it’s true; we tend to invest our time, energy, affection, and resources into the things that we treasure. When our treasure is stored up in earthly things—money and possessions, etc.—it naturally leads us to a life full of worry because they are temporary.

CONTEXT

In this passage, which is part of what is known today as the Sermon on the Mount,¹ Jesus was giving a collection of teachings about how to live in the Kingdom of God. Jesus had just finished teaching on prayer and fasting before moving on to money, possessions, and worry.

READ MATTHEW 6:19–34

¹⁹ *“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.*

²¹ *“Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.*

²² *“Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!*

¹ “**Matthew 5–7** is called the Sermon on the Mount because Jesus gave it on a hillside near Capernaum. This ‘sermon’ probably covered several days of preaching. In it, Jesus proclaimed his attitude toward the law. Position, authority, and money are not important in his Kingdom—what matters is faithful obedience from the heart.” *Life Application Study Bible: New Living Translation*. Tyndale House Publishers, 2007. 1545

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

²⁵ “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? ²⁷ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

²⁸ “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, ²⁹ yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. ³⁰ And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

³¹ “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

³⁴ “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

QUESTIONS

1. What do you think it means to store up treasures on earth?
(**Matthew 6:19**)

What happens to those treasures? (**6:19**)

2. Instead of treasures on earth, Jesus taught that we are to store up treasures in heaven (**6:20**). What do you think it means to store up treasures in heaven?
- a. Storing up treasures in heaven does not mean that we receive salvation through how hard we work (**Ephesians 2:8–9**). How can we protect ourselves from legalism, or working for our salvation, as we store up treasures in heaven?²
- b. It may be easy to fall into the trap of focusing on what we may receive as treasure in heaven. However, what we do here on earth matters. Our focus should be on living out the Kingdom principles of love and obedience rather than focusing on our rewards. With that in mind, what does storing up treasures in heaven while living on earth look like in your day-to-day life?

² See also **Romans 3:21–24**; **Galatians 3:1–5**

3. **Matthew 6:21** says, “*Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.*” This statement clearly shows that what we treasure most is what controls us.³ What do you treasure most?

It is not bad to treasure things; what is important is where we put the priority. What does it look like for you to prioritize God above all else?

4. **Matthew 6:22–23** makes it clear that when our eyes (heart/soul)⁴ are fixed on God it affects our whole life, and when they are not fixed on God it also affects our whole life. A healthy eye is one that is fixed on God. For you, how can your eyes be fixed on God? (i.e., relationally, in your personal practices, in your workplace, etc.)

³ *Life Application Study Bible: New Living Translation*. Tyndale House Publishers, 2007. 1551

⁴ “This fairly straightforward description has metaphorical implications. The ‘eye’ can be equivalent to the ‘heart.’ The heart set on God so as to hold to his commands (**Psalm 119:10**) is equivalent to the eye fastened on God’s law (**Psalm 119:18, 36–37**). Jesus similarly moves from ‘heart’ (**[Matthew 6:]21**) to ‘eye.’” Barker, Kenneth L., et al. *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*. Zondervan, 2004. Bible Gateway Plus

b. “We may dignify worry by calling it by some other name—concern, burden, a cross to bear—but the results are still the same. ... The Greek word translated ‘to worry’ literally means ‘to be drawn in different directions.’ Worry pulls us apart.”⁶ How does worry tend to pull you?

c. How do you distinguish between appropriately thinking and planning for the future, and worry?

7. What did Jesus say we should do instead of worry?⁷ (**6:33–34**)

a. What do you typically seek first?

⁶ *NKJV Wiersbe Study Bible*. Thomas Nelson, 2021. Bible Gateway Plus

⁷ Anxiety is a very real mental health issue that is different from the worry described in this passage. If you are struggling with anxiety and haven't yet reached out for help, please consider talking to a counselor or medical professional.

b. In the following Scriptures, note anything that sticks out to you as new, convicting, or that Holy Spirit is highlighting about life in the Kingdom of God.

i. **John 14:27**

“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”

ii. **Romans 8:31**

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?

iii. **Hebrews 13:5**

Don’t love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, “I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.”

iv. **Colossians 3:2**

Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

v. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

8. Each of these stories tells us more about Jesus, the unexpected King. What is one thing you have learned about Jesus from this lesson, and how will it impact how you live?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Not being concerned about what's going to happen next can be really hard.

Make a list of the things that you tend to worry about and why.

Brainstorm with your group about what it could look like to lay those worries at the feet of Jesus.

Once you have your idea of what this could look like, spend some time laying them at His feet.

Remember, this is not easy, but Jesus is inviting us to go on this journey with Him. He doesn't promise that everything will be perfect but He does promise that He is enough and He is in control.

ON MISSION

Matthew 6:32 states that worry dominates the thoughts of unbelievers.

In the spiritual practice on page 68 you wrestled with what it means to walk forward in trust and not worry. This is one of the ways we reflect the image of God to those around us. This is hard. Yet, as we continue to learn how to trust God, we bring the peace, power, and presence of God into the world wherever we step.

Why do you think this aspect of imaging God is so important?

How could you image God in this way this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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SERMON NOTES

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