

***The Wisdom of Jesus***  
***Be Focused on Eternity***  
***Matthew 6:19-34***

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**Text:** <sup>19</sup> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>22</sup> “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness!

<sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I say to you, do not worry 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? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

<sup>28</sup> “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; <sup>29</sup> and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?

<sup>31</sup> “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

**Introduction:** Our text this morning is part of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus has been teaching about life in His kingdom. He began with the beatitudes—those little proverbs that teach us how to really have the life God meant for us to have. Then, Jesus addressed other matters of kingdom living—lessons on being salt and light, lessons on fulfilling the law of God, and a lesson on being real just to name a few. In our text today, I get the sense that Jesus is saying, “You really want to know what it means to live as my disciple—just seek the Kingdom of God first.” That is, let God be the number one priority in your life. In your business, in your home, in your church, in every decision you make, be guided by this principle: **seek first the kingdom of God!**

*What does this mean?* Paul gave insight on this subject.

Colossians 3:2 “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

The key to seeking God's kingdom is to focus more on things eternal than things on the earth.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus contrasts the kind of behavior that the world exhibits with the kind of behavior that His disciples ought to model. For example in Matthew 6:1-18, Jesus contrasts hypocrisy with integrity. In our focal passage this morning, Jesus contrasts the heart set on earthly things with the heart set on eternity. Our hearts, our eyes, our focus must be *Heavenward*.

But, many struggle with a divided heart between the earthly and the eternal. Our text shows us these warning signs of a divided heart.

### **Warning Signs of a Divided Heart:**

#### **#1 I feel myself wanting excessively. (6:19-23)**

We find ourselves wanting more than we have.

#### **The Tragedy of our Excessive Desires:**

(1) Changes the focus of our activity.

We store up earthly things as opposed to eternal things.

(2) Cannot Satisfy.

(3) Controls us.

Jesus referred to the eye controlling the body.

#### **The Truth of our Excessive Desires:**

If God is our priority, we will have our needed possessions.

#### **#2 I feel myself wandering away from God. (6:24)**

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

#### **The Impossibility of Two Masters**

Notice, first, the *impossibility* of serving two masters. You cannot serve two masters. The most spiritually mature person cannot serve two masters. If something or somebody is your master, implied in the word "master" is the impossibility that you can have two.

#### **The Irony of Two Masters**

Second, notice the *irony* of serving two masters. The irony is that you will actually end up hating and despising one of the two masters. Hear the words of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians.

*Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. (Philippians 3:17-19)*

Again, to Timothy, Paul wrote about one named Demas:

for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica, Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. (2 Timothy 4:10)

We rationalize that we can be the one who will be able to love two masters. Take note of these close associates of Paul.

Is there any part of you, today, that feels distant from God? Maybe you can look at your life and remember a time when you were more “in step with God.”

### **#3 I feel myself worrying needlessly. (6:25-34)**

Could it be that worry is a sign that you are seeking your own kingdom? The text indicates yes. If we are seeking God’s kingdom, we will be so focused on Him that we won’t worry about the material things of this life.

Just to put it real bluntly, most of us are more worried about what is happening with our businesses, our incomes, our stocks, our sports teams, our next vacation than we are about the kingdom of God. I remember reading a story about a gentleman who owned a business. He worried all the time. He worried when things were bad, but he even worried when things were good. He worried about everything pertaining to his business. One day, he was tired of all of the worrying and he voiced this prayer to God, “God, I’m turning this business over to You. It’s Yours! You can do with it whatever you want.” That night, he was awakened in the middle of the night to the news that his business was on fire. He made his way down to the business to watch it burn to the ground. One of his employees who knew how much the man worried walked over to console his boss. The owner of that business was able to say, “It’s not my problem. You see, just today, I gave that business to God. It’s His! If He wants to burn it down, it’s no concern of mine.” What a change in attitude! To seek God’s Kingdom, first, means to turn it all over to Him.

The interesting thing about worry is that we worry about the things we ought not to worry about and don’t think much about the things that are really important. Eternal things. You have heard me say, I think, that so far as I can tell there are only three things that are going to last forever: God, God’s Word, and People. We must seek to pour our lives into these three things.

**The only way to win over worry is to replace worry with trust.**

You are living for a kingdom whether you realize it or not. You are either living for your own kingdom or you are living for the kingdom of God. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are commanded to “Seek first the Kingdom of God.”

Remember why we are studying the Sermon on the Mount. We are searching for the wisdom of God. So, it is wise to seek first God's Kingdom. That's first in both chronology and priority.

Augustine, of the fourth century, said something that is still powerful for today. He said, "God wants to give us something, but He cannot, because our hands are so full, He has no place to put it."

Seek His Kingdom and all these things shall be added to you.