

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 21ST-22ND, 2020 // BOOK OF MATTHEW

TWO MASTERS (MATT. 6:19-24)

BACK TO THE THEME OF PRIORITIES

Jesus has already talked about how we should give, pray, and fast. Now He teaches us about our incorrect perspectives on the material world.

- The end of chapter 6 will touch on **greed** and **anxiety**, which are often closely related to each other because **both show a lack of trust in God.**

PERMANENT VS. TEMPORARY

Jesus tells us to not "store up for yourselves treasures on earth" because material possessions can be lost or stolen.

- Does this mean it is wrong to own things? Of course not! This means that **our hope, fulfillment, and security cannot be found in things that are temporary, but only in an eternity with Christ.**

CHANGING WHAT WE LONG FOR

The believer in Christ should be longing for an eternity with Him, but we all get so easily sucked into the pursuits of the world.

- **It is ok to enjoy this life (Ecclesiastes), but we should be desiring God and His kingdom.** Jesus would later say, "What does it profit a person to gain the world but lose eternity?"

HOW TO GAUGE THE HEALTH OF THE HEART

V21 is paramount. Jesus says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." This means **regardless of what we say, where we put our time, money, and energy really determines where our love and allegiance lies.**

- Have we taken an inventory of the state of our heart recently?

WHERE DID THINGS GO WRONG?

Jesus informs us that "The eye is the lamp of the body." Jesus is telling us that **what we take in will shape our desires and lifestyle.**

- **We start to go down a dark and selfish path when our eyes and ears are focused on such things.** Jesus warns us that darkness can be exceptionally deep.

THERE IS NO BALANCE IN IDOLATRY (V24)

When we claim to be followers of Christ yet live our lives pursuing the things of this world, we are claiming to have two masters, and Jesus tells us this is impossible.

- Even if money is not a temptation to us, we can replace money with whatever occupies our time and Jesus' words still apply.

WE MUST ASK HONEST QUESTIONS

When it comes to the state of our heart and allegiance to Christ, we must be honest with ourselves.

- **Where do we run when life gets hard? Who gets the credit when things are good? Are we committed to and focused on God or something else?**

ANXIETY (MATT. 6:25-34)

WHEN THE BIBLE HITS TOO CLOSE TO HOME

Jesus tells us to "not worry about [our] life." As Christians we read and celebrate God's Word, but **in times like this we approach the Bible with reluctance because the application isn't always as easy as we claim.**

- **The crux of Christianity is a trust in Jesus regardless of circumstances.** This is difficult, yet imperative.

HOWEVER IT SHAKES DOWN

Jesus told us not to worry because He cares for us. That doesn't mean we won't go through hard times, Jesus ensures us we will. It means that if we trust in Him, we will be taken care of.

- This must be studied from the knowledge that **Christians are migrants and we're not promised longevity in this life.**

CAN WE SAVE OURSELVES BY WORRYING?

Jesus says, "Can any of you add one moment to your life-span by worrying?" The answer is a resounding "No!"

- **This doesn't call for carelessness, but it challenges us to trust God on the deepest of levels. If it all goes away, do we still put our trust in God?**

HOW DO WE HANDLE ANXIETY?

All of us will be anxious and afraid at times. This doesn't make us evil. The Christian should respond to fear and anxiety by running to God for comfort and peace.

- God knows us better than we know ourselves. **Though we get scared, we are not to live in that anxiety, but abide (live) in Christ.**

Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

PHIL. 4:6 (CSB)

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

1 PETER 5:6-7 (NLT)

"FOR THE GENTILES EAGERLY SEEK..."

People that don't have a relationship with Christ have every right to worry because they depend on a broken world system instead of the Prince of Peace that loves and pursues them.

- **Our submission to anxiety and fear draws the soft rebuke of Jesus in v30 Who beckons us to trust Him.**

IT IS A QUESTION OF CITIZENSHIP (V33)

Jesus tells us to **"seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be provided for you."**

- In times of uncertainty, chaos, and even devastation we're to be looking to a greater Kingdom than any of this world. **If our eyes are on God, we will be ok in the end.**

"THEREFORE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW..."

This is the 3rd time Jesus warns us to not let anxiety run our lives. **It is not wrong to prepare for the future (savings, health, etc.) but God calls us to live in the present.**

- Today God will give us what we need, and He will do the same tomorrow and the days to come. **It all boils down to trusting God!**

THIS COULDN'T COME AT A BETTER TIME

- We find ourselves in a time that challenges our priorities and character. **Are we honest about where our heart is?**
- We are not promised ease, comfort, or long-life, but we are promised that Jesus is with us now and forever if we trust in Him.
- Jesus' point in Matthew 6:19-34 is very simple: **trust in God above all else.**
- Trusting in God can be difficult when we are among so many scared voices and confused systems. But, Jesus tells us to **"seek first the Kingdom of God..."** and regardless of what happens, His Kingdom will remain intact.

HOW DO WE "SEEK FIRST..."?

- By **praying.**
- By **reading and believing the Word.**
- By **practicing trust and obedience** of Christ's commands.
- By **being still** and meditating on God.