

WELCOME!

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Matthew 5 - 7

RECAP

- The Sermon on the Mount is chapters 5-7 in *The Gospel of Matthew*
- The Sermon on the Mount describes what life looks like when lived according to the Kingdom of God -- and the life Jesus' disciples are called to
- The Beatitudes – What the blessed life looks like
- The Six Antitheses – the “greater righteousness” of God’s kingdom (e.g., “Don’t murder” = “Don’t be angry”; “An eye for an eye” = “Don’t resist the evildoer”)
- The Lord’s Prayer

TODAY

- Two teachings about money
- “Seek first the kingdom of God”
- Today’s theme:
 - ❖ Loyalty to God excludes any rival loyalty
 - ❖ Living a “God-ruled life” means an active dependence upon God
 - ❖ Motif of “either/or”

MATTHEW 6:19-21

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

- Better: “where *moth and worm* consume” (word translates as both “worm” and “rust”)
- Thieves -- who dig through house walls made of mud brick.
- Treasures in the ancient world were often buried under house floors
- “Treasure in heaven” was a common Jewish image for eschatological reward.

EITHER / OR

EITHER: Store up treasures on earth

OR: Store up treasures in heaven

- ❖ Store up = θησαυριζω (thesaurizo) = to keep, lay up, hoard
- ❖ Treasures = θησαυρουσ (thesaurous) = that which is stored, deposited; treasury, storehouse; treasure, valuables

The English word "thesaurus" comes from the Greek *thēsauros* = treasure, treasury, storehouse

WHAT IS JESUS TEACHING?

- ❖ What does it mean to store up treasures on earth?
- ❖ What does it mean to store up treasures in heaven?

TWO MOTIVATIONS

- 1) Treasure on earth is not secure
- 2) Where our treasure is reveals what we are living for (where our heart is)

MATTHEW 6:24

“No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

- ❖ “Slave” = house servant
- ❖ “Wealth” = mammon = wealth, property, possessions
- ❖ “hate/love” is not literal. They represent the biblical idiom for “choose/not choose”.

EITHER / OR

EITHER: Serve wealth, property, possessions

OR: Serve God

- ❖ A slave owes full service and loyalty to his master, total and undivided commitment.
- ❖ Jesus asks for uncompromising commitment to God's will and purposes.
- ❖ God claims complete loyalty; the disciple cannot divide his loyalty between God and possessions ...

YOU GOTTA SERVE SOMEBODY

The presupposition behind Jesus' saying is an affront to the common cultural understanding of the meaning of human life. Human life inescapably "serves" something that gives it meaning. The choice is not whether we shall serve, but what or whom we shall serve.

BOB DYLAN (SLOW TRAIN COMING, 1980)

*You may be a state trooper, you might be a young Turk,
You may be the head of some big TV network,
You may be rich or poor, you may be blind or lame,
You may be living in another country under another name*

*You're gonna have to serve somebody,
You're gonna have to serve somebody,
It may be the devil, or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody.*

EITHER / OR

- ❖ The nature of discipleship is such that it allows no such divided loyalties. If one chooses to follow Jesus, the commitment and service entailed are absolute. It is impossible to be a partially committed or part-time disciple
- ❖ The issue in view in these passages is not wealth primarily, but an absolute and unqualified discipleship. Wealth, it happens, is only the most conspicuous example of that which can distract from true discipleship.

A sunset over the ocean with the text "DO NOT WORRY" overlaid. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water. The sky is a deep blue with some clouds. The text is in a bold, white, sans-serif font. A thin white horizontal line is positioned below the text "DO NOT WORRY".

DO NOT WORRY

MATTHEW 6:25-34

THEREFORE...

Therefore I tell you,

**DO NOT
WORRY
ABOUT
YOUR
LIFE,**

*what you will eat or drink; or about your body,
what you will wear. Is not life more than food,
and the body more than clothes?*

MATTHEW 6:25

Worry/
Be Anxious

Worry: *merimnate*

- To be pulled/torn in different directions
- Distracted from impt. things

Four rhetorical questions

to bring the futility of worry home



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?**

(v.26)



**And can any of you
by worrying add a
single hour
to your span of life?**

(v.27)

And why do you worry about clothing?



- Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.
- But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, **will he not much more clothe you —you of little faith?**
- *“Unbelief is the mother of all anxiety”*
(John Calvin)



Therefore
do not worry, saying,

‘What will we eat?’

or *‘What will we drink?’*

or *‘What will we wear?’*


For it is the Gentiles
who strive for all these things;
and indeed your heavenly
Father knows that you need
all these things.

THE
HEART
OF THE
SERMON

●
But seek first
the kingdom of God
and his-righteousness,
and all these things
will be given to you as well.

(Mt. 6.33)

**zeteo to seek, look for;
to be on the watch for;
to pursue, to strive for; crave*

A person in silhouette is seen from behind, looking out at a sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, orange glow. The person is wearing a dark, hooded garment. The entire scene is framed by a dark border.

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow,
for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each
day has enough trouble of its own.

MATTHEW 6:34

**W
O
R
R
Y**

Issues of Security & Control

Can I trust God to handle things?

Will God provide what I want?

What's my insurance/assurance?

Forgetting we are Beloved/Valuable/Never alone



**"Cast all your
anxiety on him
because he cares
for you."**

(1 Peter 5:7)



RXNS? QUESTIONS? THOTS?

NEXT WEEK:

Last *SoM* Class

Read Matthew 7