The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 6:19-34

"Be Anxious for Nothing – July 4, 2021



Introduction

There are so many things that can cause us to be anxious. How can we live free from the anxiety and worries in todays world?

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use <u>Psalm 119:33-40</u> as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. We must have an undivided loyalty to God's kingdom. (vs. 19-24)
- II. We must have an uncompromised trust in God. (vs. <u>25-34</u>)

Read & Discuss

1) Read <u>19-24</u>

Accumulation of wealth, for its own sake, is deceptive. It's a false sense of security. Why should we not lay up treasures on earth? Because, everything decays. A person can't take a single thing with them when they pass on from this earth. Is there something that you are you storing up as if it had ultimate importance over heavenly things? Christ tells us to lay up treasures in heaven. They are safe, secure and everlasting. What are some heavenly treasures you can start investing in this week? Having possessions isn't sinful, but its how they control our hearts. Do you have your possession or do they have you? We can find out what investments Christ has called us to when we read through the Sermon on the Mount. Our highest treasure ought to be God Himself. If we keep our eyes on Him, all other treasures will fade in comparison. Is there something you desire or have that is distracting your eternal focus? Material things affect the mind and the heart. We are called to guard oourselves. A heart renewed by the spirit sees light and truth rightly. Church, we cannot serve two masters. What master are you serving? Ask someone close to you what they honestly see yous serving. There can be no divided loyalties with God. The Scripture isn't just talking about money, but possessions, commodities and comfort. The temptation to worship materialism over God is nothing new. It can look like striving for aheivement, prosperity, comfort, or the good life. These things gren't bad in and of themselves, but we must always strive to use these things for the glory of God. How can you use what you've been given and worked for to honor God today? Are there areas you are neglecting to give generously? Are you spending more time worrying about money or comfort than God's mission? Are you pouring all of your time on a promotion or are you seeking to serve the Lord in the midst of it? Jesus wants us to have freedom from the emptiness that we will always find in worldly possessions and comfort. He has come to give us life and life abudnatenly. The guestion we must all face is do we trust Jesus that He is more satisfying than anything this world has to offer? A disciple of Jesus fasions his entire life around that in faith. But, the question is left to be asked, if we give up our pursuit for riches how will our needs be met? Jesus tells us in verses 25-34. (see page 2)

Additional Reading: 1 Peter 1:4-5, Matthew 10:34-39

2) Read 25-34

After dealing with the distractions that can lead us astray, Jesus tells us what to do with the things that we actually need. He says trust God. We should work hard like the birds, but trust God's providence. He cares for you. Anxiety is an uneasiness of mind caused by danger or misfortune. What do you experience the most anxiety about? Is it these practical things such as food and clothing? Jesus reorients our hearts to see that he cares for us, but also that life is more than what we can see and touch in front of us. Yes, we have important needs now, but there is also eternity at hand. What is it that you are struggling to trust God with today? Share that with a church member and seek the Father's face in prayer.

Jesus is not anti material. He is against the positions that consume us. Man was made to be inwardly satisfied by God. God says if we want be satisfied, we will only find our satisfaction in Him. If God gives to the birds daily why don't we believe that God will care for our daily needs as well? Do you trust God's sovereign care for you? Do you trust that He is good? We can because of what He has provided for us in Christ. He made eternity hopefuly for us where there was no hope. He has adopted us as His sons and daugthers. Is the way you are living your life reflecting the trustworthiness and the goodness of God to a watching world?

Additional Reading: <u>Luke 12:16-21</u>

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I understand, believe, desire, or do?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to 2 Tmothy 1 "Keep Going in the Faith"