

**Text:** Matthew 6:25-34

**Meaning:** Jesus taught the disciples to seek contentment

**Big Idea:** We can be content

**Objective:** I want the hearers to be content

**Theme:**

**SERMON ON THE MOUNT – SOME OF THE MOST MISINTERPRETED PASSAGES BY THE CHURCH AND MISUNDERSTOOD BY OUR CULTURE.**

Next 2 weeks – we will look at 2 often misunderstood passages.

Next week – DO NOT JUDGE LEST YOU BE JUDGED. CULTURE SAYS “DON’T JUDGE ME!” Disagreement is not judgment.

This week – DON’T WORRY, OR DO NOT BE ANXIOUS!  
Many Christians have read this and say “Well, I just need to have more faith and I’ll get rid of anxiety. Or if I struggle with worry or fear it’s because I’m not spiritual enough.”

THAT IS NOT WHAT THIS PASSAGE IS ABOUT. JESUS IS NOT DOING PSYCHOTHERAPY HERE.

**I WANT TO GIVE YOU AN ENTIRELY NEW WAY TO VIEW THIS PASSAGE.**

NOT PSYCHOTHERAPY – ADDRESSING THE WORLDLY FOCUS OF THE PHARISEES.

Verse 24 says – You cannot serve God and money

Verse 25 – Therefore, I tell you don’t worry about what you will eat, drink, or wear

So – this is as much an exhortation to stay away from GREED, MATERIALIASM, AND WORLDLINESS, as it is a section about anxiety.

**THIS IS A PASSAGE ABOUT CONTENTMENT**

**PROPOSITIONAL STATEMENT:** Today we are going to talk about how to be content. Contentment is the opposite of worry and anxiety. Jesus gives us 3 disciplines to being content.

**INVITATION:** Today, I’m going to invite you to be content in Jesus. I invite you today to give your worries to Jesus. Money, Family, Job, Health, Retirement.

Pastor Derek – that all sounds nice – BUT HOW IN THE WORLD DO YOU JUST GIVE YOUR WORRIES TO JESUS?

**READ MATTHEW 6:25-34**

Jesus says here – DON’T WORRY. BE CONTENT IN CHRIST AND IN KNOWING HE WILL PROVIDE ALL YOU NEED!

Jesus says, “Don’t worry about your life?” He tells us to not worry 3 times in this passage. Don’t worry about your life. Don’t worry about what you will eat, drink, or wear. Don’t worry about tomorrow.

**WORRY** - to have an anxious concern, based on apprehension about possible danger or misfortune<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, [\*Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains\*](#) (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 312.

The word in the Greek leans into the idea of concern. So, don't concern yourself continually with earthly things. Your Father knows you need them, so trust Him for them.

*WORRY IS PAYING RENT ON TOMORROW'S TROUBLE BEFORE IT'S DUE*

**Charles Spurgeon** - "Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength."

**Vance Havner** – Worry is like a rocking chair. It will keep you busy but it won't get you anywhere.

Worry is the ultimate form of secular humanism – because worry says "it's up to me to take care of this situation."

### **DON'T WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW**

WORRY AND LIVING FOR WEALTH IS AN UNGODLY FIXATION ON TOMORROW. IT IS THE UNHEALTHY PREOCCUPATION WITH MAKING SURE I HAVE ENOUGH TO LIVE ON.

Culture today seems to always be living for something else than what it has:

- Something else to do
- Somewhere else to be
- Someone else to talk to other than the person in front of me
- Some material possession out there I still need
- Some amount of money I must have in order to feel safe

We text each other while in the same room  
What we call FACETIME is actually just SCREEN TIME

We spend all our time at BALL FIELDS, in BOARD ROOMS, at BUSINESS CONFERENCES or BACK ROOM OFFICES. We should be

spending more time around our DINNER TABLES, LIVING ROOMS, BACK PORCHES, and in CHURCH PEWS.

### **2 Inspiring Statements from Jesus:**

WHY? – Isn't life more than food and clothing? Isn't life more than where you live, what car you drive, how much money you make, the education you have, and so on and so forth?

### **LIFE IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS AND THE COMING KINGDOM OF GOD!**

#### **CHINESE PROVERB**

*Happiness is someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for.*

### **GOD CARES FOR YOU**

Jesus tells them to Consider the birds of the sky – they don't sow or reap or gather a harvest, yet they are well fed. Some of the hardest working members of God's creation are birds. The idea here is not that we should shy away from hard work. The point is they don't hoard more than they need for the moment. They build simple nests to last for a season and they gather only the food they and their young need for the day. Whereas, we do the opposite. GET ALL YOU CAN – CAN ALL YOU GET – AND SIT ON THE CAN.

### **BIRDS – INCREDIBLY FRAGILE ANIMALS**

Most weigh very little. They can't really protect themselves well from predators. If they didn't have wings they'd all be doomed. Some birds you just touch and they start to die. Yet, every corner of my house has a bird nest on it. Those suckers are everywhere. Think about that – birds have survived the wild ever since the beginning of time.

### **QUESTION: AREN'T YOU WORTH MORE THAN THE BIRDS?**

You are of infinite value to God. You are not here by accident. You're here by divine design, fearfully and wonderfully made of God. Whether you're rich or poor, have a college education or dropped out of high school, whether you're in shape or overweight, whether you drive a new car or one that is in the shop every month. YOU ARE HERE ON PURPOSE FOR A PURPOSE, AND YOU ARE LOVED AND VALUED BY GOD!

CHILD OF GOD – YOU'RE NOT A FAILURE – YOU'RE A WORK IN PROGRESS!

**THE GOSPEL MEANS YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO PROVE! JESUS IS ENOUGH!**

### **GOD WILL WORK THINGS OUT**

When Jesus talks here about the wildflowers of the field and Solomon in all his splendor, those statements are loaded with context. The disciples knew their Old Testament – the Hebrew Scriptures. Jesus is pulling some old testament references here while also pushing back on the materialistic mindset of the Jewish religious leaders of His day.

SOLOMON – his name was synonymous with the glorious original temple he built. The Pharisees worshipped at Herod's rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem in Jesus's day – although it was incredibly ornate – the Pharisees would boast of the glory of Solomon's Temple, which was a pure Temple served by a true Levitical priesthood.

So Jesus says – speaking of Solomon – let's go back to Solomon – who said in Ecclesiastes that pursuing wealth and notoriety and pleasure was ALL VANITY!

Flowers of the field – OT it was MANKIND THAT WAS COMPARED TO THE FLOWERS OF THE FIELD.

**QUESTION: WON'T HE DO MUCH MORE FOR YOU?**

### **READ PSALM 103:15-19**

#### **Two instructions from Jesus:**

#### **TAKE INVENTORY OF YOUR THOUGHTS**

**CONSIDER** – Look at. To set your gaze upon. To focus your attention upon something.

**OBSERVE** – to think about. To study carefully. To seek a full and complete understanding of.

**2 Corinthians 10:5** – Take every thought captive

**Proverbs 23:7** – As a man thinks in his heart so is he

**Proverbs 4:23** - Guard your heart above all else, for it is the source of life.

**CATS AT HOME ILLUSTRATION** – confine at night or they will tear the house apart.

### **SEEK GOD FIRST**

#### **What is the Kingdom of God?**

PEOPLE OF EVERY TRIBE, TONGUE, AND NATION. PEOPLE FROM EVERY SOCIOECONOMIC LEVEL. PEOPLE FROM EVERY LEVEL OF EDUCATION OR THE LACK THEREOF. PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN MANSIONS AND PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THATCH HUTS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD. PEOPLE WHO VOTE DEMOCRAT AND PEOPLE WHO VOTE REPUBLICAN. PEOPLE FROM THE NORTH AND PEOPLE FROM THE SOUTH, AND EVEN PEOPLE FROM CALIFORNIA. IMMIGRANT AND THE NATURAL BORN CITIZEN. ALL DECLARING ALLEGIANCE TO THE ONE AND ONLY KING OF KINGS – OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

**If Tomorrow Never Comes – Garth Brooks What if tomorrow never comes? Are you satisfied with the way you're living right now?**