

Dwelling in the Word

Prayerfully read Matt 6:19-34 and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you? 2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you? 3) How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

Beginning the Conversation

1. Imagine you're out with a friend or family member and they ask you, "What are the desires of your heart"? How would you respond? How do those desires align to the things you prioritize in your life?
2. How do you handle anxiety? What could be some strategies based on the Sermon on the Mount to help cope with fear and anxiety?

Digging Deeper

1. In this passage Jesus covers a number of different topics where he gives his followers a choice between two options. Underlying all of this teaching is a call to an undivided devotion to a loving heavenly Father. How does this underlying belief in a benevolent heavenly Father impact one's decision to follow Jesus?
2. Jesus tells his followers to store up heavenly instead of earthly treasures (6:19-21). What are some of the "heavenly" treasures Jesus is talking about? How do you think you can store up these "heavenly treasures"?
3. When Jesus says, "For where your treasure *is*, there your heart *will be* also" (6:21), he is saying where we put our treasure *determines* what sort of people we *become*. What do you think about this idea? How does that motivate you to continue to work on various spiritual disciplines?
4. Jesus' saying about healthy and unhealthy eyes (6:22-23) is challenging to understand. What do you think this passage is saying?
5. Jesus returns to the subject of treasure in his saying about the inability to serve two masters well (6:24). What is it about money that makes it a frequent concern in the NT (see Matt 13:22; 1Tim 6:8-9, 17-19)?
6. The final part of this passage is an extended discussion about anxiety (6:25-34). What is the difference between appropriate worry (and planning) about our needs and an unhealthy concern over them? What is the place of prayer in connection with coping with anxiety? How does knowing your heavenly Father cares for your needs help?

Living it Out

1. The practice of gratitude can help us to reorient our mindset. It doesn't take away from the fact that things may be difficult, or that we may have worries, but writing down a few things we are thankful for helps us to remember the good. Make a practice this week to write out 2-3 things that you are thankful for each day.
2. How do you typically respond to things in your life that may be concerning or worrying? As you think about how you respond, do you find that it helps to bring clarity or peace to the situation, or does your typical response tend to increase the worry or anxiety? If your typical response tends to amplify the concern, what are some practices that you could put in place that remind you to take your worries or concerns to the Lord?
3. If you are experiencing a season of calm and abundance, is there a way that this week, you could come alongside someone who is experiencing the opposite? How could you be the hand and feet of Jesus to someone experiencing a need?

The Priorities of the Kingdom (6:19-34)



Discourse 1
Announcing the
Kingdom (3-7)

October 5, 2025
Pastor Tyler Williams
Greenfield Community Church

The Priorities of the Kingdom

4-2-1

1. *Two Treasures* (6:19-21)
2. *Two Eyes* (6:22-23)
3. *Two Masters* (6:24)
4. *Two Anxieties* (6:25-34)

*One Call to an Undivided
Devotion to a Loving
Heavenly Father*

Two Treasures (6:19-21)

"Do not store up for yourselves *treasures on earth*... But store up for yourselves *treasures in heaven*..." (6:19-20).

- Followers of Jesus should value things of God over the things of the earth (see also James 5:2-6).
- Talking more about needless accumulation, not mere possession (what we possess can end up possessing us!).

Two Treasures (6:19-21)

"For where your treasure *is*, there your heart *will be* also" (6:21).

- ***Not saying*** what you treasure reveals your heart (though it does).
- But rather, Jesus is saying where we put our treasure ***determines*** what sort of people we ***become***.

Two Treasures (6:19-21)

"Simply put, Jesus says that what we do with our treasure (something we can control) affects the state of our heart (something we otherwise cannot control)... When we invest our time, talents, or money in ways that are pleasing to God, our hearts are directed or redirected accordingly; we increasingly become people who want to please God (and who actually do so); we become more spiritually mature" (Mark Powell, *Matthew*, 106-107).

Two Eyes (6:22-23)

"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness..." (6:22-23).

- Ancient theory of sight (extramission vs. intromission).
- **Healthy** = unjaundiced = singular = generous; **unhealthy** = jaundiced = divided = stingy.
- The person who is singularly committed to God and full of God's light (i.e., is generous), lights the world about them.
- There is a correlation between one's inward state and outward actions.

Two Masters (6:24)

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money [*mammon*]" (6:24).

- Having *no* master is not an option in their ancient worldview — "Gotta Serve Somebody" (Bob Dylan).
- "The marching orders of God and of mammon are in entirely different directions" (Dale Allison, *Matthew*, 642).

Two Anxieties (6:25-34)

"**Therefore** I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear..." (6:25).

- Ancient agrarian context where the majority of his audience would be living in poverty and may not know where their next meal will come from.
- Simple Truth: "Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" (6:27).

Two Anxieties (6:25-34)

A Pastoral Note on Anxiety

- “Fear is the emotional response to real or perceived imminent threat, whereas anxiety is anticipation of future threat” (DSM-5-TR).
- Both are healthy responses to reality, but when excessive they can become disorders.
- What Jesus is teaching us in this morning's passage can help mitigate against anxiety and give us hope.

Two Anxieties (6:25-34)

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well...” (6:33).

- Jesus' teaching is grounded in a fundamental belief in a benevolent loving heavenly Father.
- As God cares for the needs of the birds of the air and the flowers of the field, “your heavenly Father knows that you need them” (6:32).

Two Anxieties (6:25-34)

“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (6:34).

- Jesus' belief in a benevolent loving heavenly Father does not mean that bad things do not happen.
- Jesus reminds us “each day has enough trouble of its own” (6:34) and that his followers should expect trouble (5:10-12; 8:19-20).
- Nonetheless, Jesus remains convinced of the benevolence of a loving heavenly Father *who is setting the world to rights through his Son.*

Invitation

Jesus is calling us to one undivided devotion to a loving Heavenly Father...

- A good Father who loves and cares for us...
- A good Father to whom we can pray, “Our Father in heaven...”
- A good Father who invites us into communion with him...