

Brookland Baptist Church
Bible Study
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Lecture XII

April 28, 2021

THE GREATEST SERMON EVER PREACHED

Jesus Teaches About Worry

● **Matthew 6:25 (NIV)**

²⁵ *“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?”*

The command "**do not worry**" does not imply complete lack of concern, nor does it call people to be unwilling to work and supply their own needs. Instead, Jesus was continuing to highlight kingdom priorities—the attitude toward life that his disciples should exemplify. They need not be overly concerned about food or clothing because they know that God will care for them.

● **Matthew 6:26 (NIV)**

²⁶ *"Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"*

The birds are dependent upon God's daily provision because they cannot grow, prepare, or store their food. They work—they hunt for it and then bring it back to their families—but they don't worry. If God cares for the birds, making sure that the natural order of his creation supplies food for them, how much more will he care for a hungry human being?

● **Matthew 6:27 (NIV)**

²⁷ *"And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life."*

Many of us would do well to ask ourselves this question every morning. Daily we face new challenges, concerns, problems, and choices. Will we worry, or will we pray? Will worrying be of any help whatsoever? Because of the ill effects of worry, Jesus tells us not to worry about those needs that God promises to supply.

● **Matthew 6:28-30 (NIV)**

²⁸⁻³⁰ *"So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"*

The lilies of the field, probably referring generally to the bountiful flowers in Israel. As in 6:26, Jesus was not condoning laziness while waiting for God to supply. Instead, he wanted his disciples to place their lives and needs in God's hands, refusing to worry over basic needs. To worry about clothing is to show little faith in God's ability to supply.

● **Matthew 6:31-32 (NIV)**

³¹⁻³² *So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*

Therefore, Jesus said, because God provides food and clothing not only for birds and flowers but even more for his precious human creation, do not worry. Do not spend energy fretting over what you will eat, drink, or wear. Worry has no place in the lives of Jesus' disciples.

● **Matthew 6:33 (NIV)**

³³ *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

Jesus' followers must settle the question of priorities. They must be different from unbelievers whose priorities are comfort, security, money, fashion, etc. Jesus' followers seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

The word "seek" is a present imperative, a command to fulfill a continuing obligation. To "seek the kingdom" means both to submit to God's sovereignty here and now and to work for the future coming of his kingdom. To "seek His righteousness" means to seek to live as God requires, to truly seek these "first" calls for total loyalty and commitment. It means to turn to God first for help, to fill our thoughts with his desires, to take his character for our pattern, and to serve and obey him in everything.

● **Matthew 6:34 (NIV)**

³⁴ *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

In an appeal to common sense, Jesus explained that what we worry about happening tomorrow may not happen, so we will have wasted time and energy worrying. We need to reserve that energy for today because each day has enough trouble. We only add to today's burdens when we

worry about the future. All the anxieties about tomorrow will not change the outcome, and it will have enough anxieties of its own.

Jesus Teaches About Criticizing Others

● Matthew 7:1-2 (NIV)

¹ *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

The word "judge" (Greek, krino) can mean evaluate or analyze. It also refers to private, judgmental attitudes that tear down others in order to build up oneself. The command "judge not" does not refer to judging in a court of law, nor is it a blanket statement against critical thinking. Believers should be discerning and make certain judgments. For example, Jesus said to expose false teachers (7:15-23) and to admonish others in order to help them (18:15). Paul taught that we should exercise church discipline

● Matthew 7:3-5 (NIV)

³ *“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.*

The word "speck" is also translated "splinter"; "log" is also translated "plank" or "beam." Many have taken this metaphor to mean that Christians should never correct anyone—one's personal sins before God are too great to even consider dealing with others' sins. However, Jesus' point was that while we all have sin in our lives (some as small as a speck; some as large as a log), we are responsible to both deal with our own sin and then help others 5.

You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye." Jesus revealed an incredible understanding of human nature. How easy it is for us to overlook our own sins yet easily spot sin in others. How true that the sin we most clearly see in others is also present in us.

Believers should first deal with their own sins, but they also must correct and guide erring brothers and sisters. James wrote, "My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins" James 5:19-20.