

Matthew 6.19-34 / Church of the Open Bible / 01.10.16

Matthew 6.19-20

Earthly treasures are _____ and _____, whereas treasure in Heaven is eternal and permanent.

For prayerful reflection: Is your focus more on material things or spiritual things? How could you improve that balance going forward?

Matthew 6.21-24

The more you dwell on material things, that not only reflects your heart, it _____ your heart to value those things even more. The same is true [though much better!] if you dwell instead on spiritual things.

Focusing on money and materialism leads you into spiritual _____, because it is so very much “bottom-line” fleshly behavior. In contrast, fix your eyes on Jesus to be filled with God’s light!

You need to _____ who will be your master, God or money! Which will dominate your thinking, provide purpose and direction, bring enjoyment and satisfaction? Don’t say both! Jesus says that is impossible; you would end up fixated on, and thus owned by, money.

For prayerful reflection: What does the evidence from your checkbook and credit card statements say about your focus, is it accumulating material things for yourself or serving Christ? What does the evidence of your time management and calendar say? What adjustments should you make to serve God more and money less?

Matthew 6.25-30

If your focus and purpose is serving God, you should be able to _____ God to provide, rather than worrying about it.

One reason we trust God for provision is that we are extremely _____ to God, more so than the animals whom he feeds or the flowers he dresses, for we are created in his image, saved by Christ, indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Worry does no good, sometimes does harm, and indicates we have _____ faith.

For prayerful reflection: How much do you worry about losing your income or not making ends meet? How can you learn to not worry, rather trusting God more and more for provision?

Other Notes [Matthew 6.31-34 on the other side]:

Matthew 6.31-34

Pursuing God's righteousness means loving God with _____ of yourself, loving others as yourself.

Pursuing God's righteousness means being God's _____ bearer, so that you reflect his character, represent him in daily situations, rule as his steward over creation, and reproduce his image in others through evangelism and teaching.

Pursuing God's righteousness means walking on the top line in _____ and _____ to the teachings of scripture and the promptings of the Holy Spirit, such that you put aside your worldly ambitions and the world's methods.

Pursuing God's righteousness means becoming like _____ in character. To get there, you have to submit to Christ as ruler of your life, yield to the Spirit and the teachings of scripture, pursue spiritual disciplines, and adopt scriptural attitudes, perspectives, and way of life.

For prayerful reflection: Why is it difficult for you to pursue God's righteousness? Are there any obstacles to this in your life, your attitudes? Are you willing to declare right now to God that you are ready to be owned by him, you are ready to have Christ as your lord and master, you will do whatever you learn in scripture or are prompted by the Spirit to do? Go ahead! If you hesitate, why?

Pursuing God's kingdom means pursuing a relationship with Jesus as our _____ and king, our savior and high priest, our teacher and prophet.

Pursuing God's kingdom means pursuing the _____ mission to bring others to saving faith.

Pursuing God's kingdom means _____ through life in relationship with Jesus, learning to live in God's ways.

For prayerful reflection: Do you think you have a good relationship with Jesus? How could you improve it? How could you pursue God's kingdom more intently day to day? What steps are you ready to take?

The promise in Matthew 6.33 is a _____ promise: it depends on us pursuing God's kingdom and righteousness.

But if we fulfill our part of this bargain, God promises to meet all our _____.

For prayerful reflection: How ready are you to trust that God will keep this promise, that he will provide everything you need? If you have any hesitation, why?

Other Notes: