

## **Sermon Outline**

### **“Kingdom Life in a Fallen World”**

**Matthew 6:25-34 – Matt Maka – January 9, 2011**

**Main Idea:** The Father’s provision frees us from anxiety so we can seek the kingdom of God.

#### **Background of Matthew 6:25-34**

1. The broad theme of the gospel of Matthew is that in the incarnation, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the long-prophesied Messiah and the long-anticipated kingdom of God have come to earth. This theme is seen most poignantly at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry when he began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17)
2. These particular verses, commonly known as the “Sermon on the Mount,” are the first of five major discourses in Matthew’s gospel. In Matthew 5:1, Jesus draws away from the crowds, ascends a ridge of hills outside of Capernaum overlooking the Sea of Galilee, sits down, (which is the posture of teachers in the 1<sup>st</sup> century) and his disciples come to him to hear him teach.
3. Undergirding all the teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is asking his disciples, “Do you want to know what life looks like in the kingdom of God? Do you want to know what is required of you as a citizen of that kingdom? Do you want to know how to act and behave and live and believe in God’s kingdom? Come and listen. I will share with you what life is like as citizens of God’s kingdom.”
4. In the more immediate context (Matthew 6:19-24), Jesus is calling his disciples to store up treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust destroy, nor thieves break in and steal. He is calling them to live for eternal riches.

#### **Don’t Be Anxious (verses 25, 31, and 34)**

1. With Jesus focusing his disciples attention on eternal treasures in Matthew 6:19-24, a question might have arisen in the minds of the hearers is, “But what about the necessities of life? I have a family to feed and clothe and shelter. What about these things?”
2. Jesus knew the disciples’ temptation to worry about the necessities of life was real. So three times Jesus says, “Do not be anxious...” His repetition means this issue is very important to our Savior.
3. Anxiety is an issue of faith and trust. Verse 30 states, “O you of little faith...” Faith trusts God’s character and ways. Anxiety forgets or minimizes God. Therefore, anxiety is the sin of unbelief. In those anxious moments, we believe that God is too small and weak or not

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present in our future to act, help, care or provide. We peer into a Godless future and are filled with anxiety and fear.

### **The Father Provides (verses 26-32)**

1. Jesus uses two illustrations to point to our heavenly Father's promise and ability to provide for us.
  - a. In verse 26, Jesus says that the Father feeds the birds of the air. And if he cares so much for birds, will he not provide food for us, his special creation made in his image?
  - b. In verses 28-30, Jesus says that the Father clothes the fields with the beauty of wildflowers. And if cares so much about clothing the earth with such beauty, will he not provide clothing for those who are his sons and daughters?
2. This provision does not come from some impersonal, distant God but from "your heavenly Father."
  - a. He is called "Father" because he provides for the needs of his children. He protects them, loves them, leads them, keeps them and cares for them.
  - b. He is "heavenly" because he is transcendent above all things. The One who rules over all things, sustains all things, is completely sovereign over all things.
    - i. "No plan of God's can be thwarted; when He acts, no one can reverse it; no one can hold back his hand or bring him to account for his actions. God does as he pleases, only as he pleases, and works out every event to bring about the accomplishment of his will. Such a bare unqualified statement of the sovereignty of God would terrify us if that were all we knew about God. But God is not only sovereign, he is perfect in love and infinite wisdom." (Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God*, pp. 44-45)
  - c. He is "your heavenly Father." He is personal and intimate and is ready to provide for our specific needs each and every day we live. He knows the hairs on our head and knows exactly what we need each moment of each day.

### **Seek the Kingdom (verses 33-34)**

1. Because our heavenly Father promises and has the ability to provide, we are not to be like the Gentiles (i.e., the unbelievers) who seek after and worry about the necessities of life. Instead, we are to lift our hearts and eyes above the circumstances and seek first the kingdom of God. To seek first the kingdom is to seek to live under the rule and authority of God.

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- a. The first step in seeking the Kingdom is seeking the King, Jesus! When we grow to increasingly know, love and treasure Jesus, we are seeking first his kingdom.
  - b. The second step is to live a life worthy of the King. When we increasingly obey God's word by putting to death the deeds of the flesh and putting on godliness and righteousness in every area of our lives, we are seeking the kingdom of God.
2. Because of Christ's life, death and resurrection, we can be free from the power of anxiety that comes when we live to build our little kingdom on earth. Because of Christ's finished work, we are free to trust God for the necessities of life and to seek first his kingdom.

## **Fellowship Starters**

1. Matt described anxiety as peering into a future in which God is not there to act, help, care or provide for us. In light of this description, why is the sin of anxiety so serious?
2. How does Jesus illustrate the care the heavenly Father provides to creation? What do these illustrations teach us about the Father's promise and ability to care and provide for you?
3. How can knowing and experiencing God as "your heavenly Father" comfort and quiet your anxious and worried heart?
4. Where are you tempted to worry, fret and be anxious? How can you cast "all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you"? (1 Peter 5:7)?
5. What does it mean to "seek first his kingdom" (Matt. 6:33)? How can you practically and intentionally seek his kingdom?