

## ***Sermon Outline***

# **“The Kingdom of God and the Anxiety of Man,” Matthew: The Life and Words of Jesus”, Part 20 – Matthew 6:25-34 – Robin Boisvert – October 14, 2012**

## **1. Introduction**

- A. The passage begins with the word “therefore,” indicating that it’s logically tied to the previous section of the sermon. Jesus has just presented two goals to live for. He describes two treasures, two visions, and two masters. They represent two ways to live. One ultimately trusts God. The other ultimately trusts possessions.
- B. Jesus is teaching his disciples but the crowd is listening in (5:1). Both followers and interested seekers are hearing this sermon.

## **2. Jesus commands his disciples to not be anxious**

- A. How can Jesus command us to not be anxious? Obviously he is sovereign and has the right, but it’s not as though anxiety is so desirable that we actively choose to experience it.
- B. We are all tempted to anxiety because we are finite being in a fallen world. There are dangers out there that we cannot control.

## **3. Jesus gives us reasons to not be anxious**

- A. **Your heavenly Father cares.** God cares for things of relatively little importance: birds and grass. How much more will he care for you? Although the anxieties of our time are different from the anxieties of those Jesus originally addressed, God still cares for his people.
- B. **Your heavenly Father knows.** God is omniscient, meaning he knows all things. God knows what we need before we ask him. He uses his knowledge for our good. He uses it to care for us. God is great and God is good!

## **4. Jesus tells us to what to do**

- A. Jesus tells us to seek the Kingdom of God and his righteousness. He is not telling us to seek two different things, but one. Righteousness is the kind of life that characterizes a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- B. The righteousness of the Kingdom of Heaven is precisely what Jesus has been teaching throughout this sermon.

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- C. Jesus finishes with some practical advice: don't worry about tomorrow because each day has enough trouble of its own. Don't add to the problem. It's necessary and good to plan, but there comes a point at which we must simply trust our heavenly Father.
- D. Like us all, the worrier looks into the future. But for the worrier, the future is a place that doesn't include God.

## **5. Conclusion**

- A. When you are tempted to anxiety, lay hold of the promises of God by bringing Scripture to mind.
- B. This passage is an excellent text to dwell on. Psalm 23 and 46 are also wonderful passages about the Lord's help and provision for his people.

## **Fellowship Starters**

1. Take time as a Care Group to read Matthew 6:25-34.
2. Jesus begins our passage by using the word "therefore," indicating that this section is logically connected to the previous one. Take some time to read Matthew 6:19-24. How do these verses serve as the basis for Jesus's instruction in 6:25-34?
3. Robin points out that we are anxious because we are finite beings in a fallen world. What specific things tempt you anxiety? How do you respond?
4. Jesus doesn't just tell us to not be anxious. He gives us reasons. Specifically, God both cares and knows. He is both good and great. Do these truths readjust your perspective on the things that provoke you to worry?
5. Jesus tells us to seek God's Kingdom and his righteousness. This includes all of the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount. Are you actively seeking God's strength to align your life with Christ's teachings?
6. Robin provided some practical advice for when anxiety strikes: lay hold of the promises of God in scripture. Do you have specific passages that you can call to mind when you are tempted to worry? Consider Psalm 23, Psalm 46, and Matthew 6.