

Our Caring Heavenly Father Knows our Needs and our Future

Matthew 6:25-34

Matthew 6:25-34 - *“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 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? ²⁷ Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?*

²⁸ “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; ²⁹ and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ 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?

³¹ “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Background Notes

Matthew 6:25-34 is another section of the Sermon on the Mount that Christians love to read and quote - but they don't necessarily **believe and obey** it! In fact, most Christians disobey this portion of Scripture. **The Lord said that we are not to worry!** And He said it more than once -- and yet we still worry! Is there anyone reading this who never worries?

Why do we disobey the Lord in this area of our lives? Is it because that we think worrying is just a normal part of life? Maybe we never realized that **“Don't worry!” is a command!** It's in the imperative all the way through here, so “don't worry” is a command.

Maybe we never realized that it is actually a sin to worry, but it is a sin to disobey **any** of the Lord's commands!

Remember, in verse 19 we were told not to lay up for ourselves treasures on earth. If we disobey the Lord in this area of our lives, and insist on trying as hard as we can to become as wealthy as we can, **we're sinning!**

In the same way, if we worry about our basic needs or we worry about our future, **we're sinning** - because we're disobeying the Lord. In these verses, the Lord gives us two reasons why we shouldn't worry.

Reason #1 - It doesn't help to worry.

Verse 27: "*Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?*" If you worry about your height, will that worry add even a little bit to your adult height? Of course not. And worrying will not add to the length of your life – not even one day longer! (In fact, worry may shorten your life!) So it doesn't help to worry!

Reason #2 - There's no need to worry.

Verses 32-33 "*...your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*" The Lord knows our needs, and He cares about us! If we're seeking "His kingdom first" and we look to Him for our needs, He will provide for us. So there's no need to worry!

Doctrinal Points

1. Believers should not worry about their basic needs.

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?" (v25).

The Lord Jesus taught us that we are not to worry about our basic needs - whether we'll have enough to eat or drink, or what we'll wear.

Our Lord used two illustrations from nature to demonstrate that we don't need to worry about our basic needs. One illustration is from the animal kingdom. "*Look at the birds*" – an illustration of the animal kingdom. Birds are not lazy, and birds do have to fly around and look for food, but (unlike humans) they don't build barns and store up food for "a rainy day"! You don't see birds doing that! God designed His creation so that His creatures would be provided the food and water they need for each day.

The other illustration is from the vegetable kingdom. "*And look at the lilies of the field...*" Look at the flowers – they don't spend a lot of time buying or making expensive clothes, and yet they have more beautiful clothes than King Solomon, the richest king who ever lived. Why? Because God clothes the flowers of the field!

If God takes care of the needs of the animal kingdom and the vegetable kingdom, caring for flowers and birds that are here today and gone tomorrow, how much more will He take care of His own people?! That's our Lord's argument, and it's very logical and very easy to follow, right? Believers should not worry about their basic needs.

Now that doesn't mean that we are to just sit around doing nothing, freeloading off people who work! No way! In fact, 2 Thessalonians 3:10 says, *"If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."* In addition, there is that well-known prerequisite

for God's care is given to believers to **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness**. When that prerequisite is met, **then** your needs will be met.

This is a great promise, but we shouldn't expect God to keep this promise if we are indulging ourselves in selfish pleasures, and not "seeking the kingdom of heaven and His righteousness." No! Verse 33 says, if you put the kingdom of God and His righteousness first in your life, **then** He will provide for all your basic needs. So we can't expect God to fulfill this promise if we're not putting Him first, and we're just doing our own thing – indulging in selfish and sinful pleasures.

However, if we're looking to the Lord and we're putting Him and His interests first, then we can be sure that our basic needs will be met! It doesn't matter whether you're out of a job, or you can't work because of a medical problem, or there's been a stock market crash, or you've just lost your home because of a natural catastrophe. If you look to the Lord and seek to follow Him in your life, and you're not a selfish freeloader, your basic needs will be met. This is a promise that the Lord gives to believers, His own children. It's a wonderful promise!

This promise is not a guarantee that God will give you everything that you **want**, but it is a guarantee that God, our heavenly Father, will give us everything that we truly **need**. I've never known of an exception to this general promise. God may allow some Christians to go through times of famine or some other test of faith - perhaps even to the point of martyrdom – and if those things happen, God will supply the strength we need. But that doesn't deny the general principle that believers shouldn't worry about their basic needs. Believers should not worry about their basic needs.

2. Believers should not worry about the future.

"Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (v34).

Are you worried about the future? Believers should not worry about the future – in fact, it's wrong to be anxious about the future! But you may say, "What about my security?" "What about my retirement?" "What about having sufficient funds for my needs in my old age?" "Who's going to take care of me?" Answer: Don't worry about the future! God will take care of your future if you look to Him.

Now this verse does **not** mean that we can squander our savings now. It doesn't mean that retirement plans and pension plans and insurance plans are unbiblical. It doesn't mean that we shouldn't be thankful to the Lord for Social Security. What it **does** mean is that **we are not to worry about the future!** Use the common sense that God has given to you and look to Him -- and don't worry! God has the greatest "social security program" for His people!

When I was in college, my father lost his job. Computers replaced the company department that my father managed. There was serious concern in our family – a home had to be maintained and bills had to be paid. My father was getting on in years, and it's not easy to get a job when you're older. But my father, a godly Christian man, never got anxious about this situation. He believed and obeyed this Scripture, and he trusted the Lord to meet his needs for the future. The answer wasn't immediate, but after a period of time the Lord provided a job for him in Christian ministry, where he was blessed and used by God.

Believers should not worry about the future. *“Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble” (v34).* How many of us would agree that each day has enough trouble of its own? So don't expect trouble-free living! The Lord said that we can expect face various problems every day -- but we should trust Him, and **not worry!**

The point of verse 34 is that we should live one day at a time. The Lord will give us the strength we need - one day at a time. We should meet our responsibilities for each day as it comes along, and not worry about the future! The Lord knows the future, so we don't have to be anxious about the days ahead. In Philippians 4:6-7, we read, *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”* Believers should not worry about the future.

Practical Application

How little is your faith?

How little is your faith? In verse 30, the Lord referred to believers who worry as, *“you of little faith.”* Would the Lord say *“O you of little faith?”* to us?

I'm sure you've heard the question, “How big is your God?” Another way to ask that same question is to ask, “How little is your faith?” According to the Lord Jesus, if you worry, your faith is just a “little faith.” And if your faith is only a “little faith,” **your concept of God is too small!**

If the Lord looked at your “worry list,” what would He say? Would He say, *“O you of little faith?”* How little is your faith? Good question for all of us, right? How little is your faith?