

Matthew 6 Our Jesus Priority and Generosity

Matthew uses five major messages or discourses from Jesus' teaching

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| Discourse on Discipleship | Matthew 5-7 |
| Discourse on Mission | Matthew 10 |
| Discourse of Parables | Matthew 13 |
| Discourse on Relationships | Matthew 18 |
| Discourse on the Future | Matthew 24-25 |

Matthew shows us Jesus primarily interacting with three types of people:

- Crowds =
- Disciples =
- Religious leaders =

Matthew 5-7 Jesus is teaching about the Kingdom (with God)

¹⁹ "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal.²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. ²² "Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. ²³ But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is! ²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money. ²⁵ "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? ²⁷ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? ²⁸ "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing,²⁹ yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. ³⁰ And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? ³¹ "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. ³⁴ "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

"Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."

There is something powerful behind what we do with our resources and what they do with us.

2300 verses in the Bible talk about matters of money.

Choose Your Priority: God or Wealth (a rival god)

"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."

Working to earn money, having financial plans, being a good steward of what God gives us is a Christian ethic: *Proverbs 6* = be like the ant not the sluggard or *Matthew 25* = be a faithful Kingdom steward

Money and wealth are not inherently evil, but our love (devotion) for money/wealth is. *1Timothy 6:10*

Why? If we are devoted to material wealth, we will fall head over heels for its deceptions:

A false sense of personal security and power

"Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you...The very wealth you were counting on...you have hoarded will testify against you on the day of judgment." James 5:1-3

When we become loyal to wealth we are choosing to invest in what will never last

When we become loyal to God we are choosing to invest in what will last forever

A false assessment of personal worth

"In this life they consider themselves fortunate and are applauded for their success. But they will die like all before them and never again see the light of day." Psalm 49:18-19

A terrible investment of our days

Jesus: "what does it profit you if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?"

Choose Your Provider: God or Worry (rival god)

"So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?'"³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.³³ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Choose Your Practice of Gratitude

"Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light."

Greek word *haplotes* here denotes both a generous life and single focused devotion to God

2 Corinthians 8:1-2 "Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia.² They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity (haplotes)."

2Corinthians 9:10 "For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity (haplotes) in you."

Money, wealth, possessions have at least three purposes in Scripture:

-To provide for our family

1Thessalonians 4:11-12, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15, 1Timothy 5:8

-To help those in need, beginning with our church family

Acts 11:27-30, Romans 15:25-27, 2Corinthians 8:1-15, Galatians 6:7-10, 1Timothy 5:3-7

-To support our church ministry and the Gospel mission around the world

1Corinthians 9:3-14, Philippians 4:14-19, 1Timothy 5:17-18