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# LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

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The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 6:25-34 "Seek First His Kingdom"

# Annual Congregational Meeting



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## SERVICE

Year in Review  
New Members  
Ministry Reports  
Looking Ahead

## POST-SERVICE

2021 Finance  
Report  
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Report  
Q&A



# Three Metaphors:

- Storing up treasures
- Healthy eyes
- Serving two masters



# Three Key Teachings:

- We ought to store heavenly treasures not earthly ones that will not last.
- When we don't see clearly, we devalue the things that God cares about and chase after the things that have little value in his eyes.
- God deserves our undivided loyalty and worship.



Matthew  
6:25-34

**“Therefore** I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”



Matthew  
6:25-34

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or



Matthew  
6:25-34

‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’  
For the pagans run after all these things, and  
your heavenly Father knows that you need  
them. But seek first his kingdom and his  
righteousness, and all these things will be  
given to you as well. Therefore do not worry  
about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry  
about itself. Each day has enough trouble of  
its own.

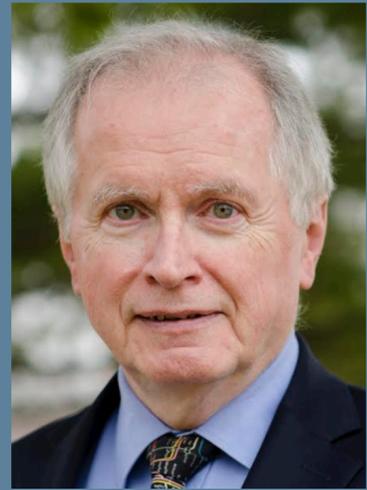


Don't worry.









D. A.  
Carson

**Proposition 1:** There is a sense in which worry is not only good, but its absence is, biblically speaking, irresponsible.

**Proposition 2:** There is a sense in which worry is not only evil, but its presence signifies unbelief and disobedience.



2 Corinthians  
11:28

And, apart from other things,  
there is the daily pressure on  
me of **my anxiety** for all the  
churches.



Matthew  
13:22

The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the **worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth** choke the word, making it unfruitful.



The call not to worry isn't so much about having a carefree and easy-going attitude toward life, but about having proper concern over the right things.



Ulrich  
Luz

It is said that every “starving sparrow” contradicts Jesus, not to mention every famine and every war; that the text gives the appearance of being extremely simpleminded; that it acts as if there were no economic problems, only ethical ones, and that it is a good symbol of the economic naïveté that has characterized Christianity in the course of its history



2 Corinthians  
11:27

I have labored and toiled  
and have often gone  
without sleep; I have known  
hunger and thirst and have  
often gone without food; I  
have been cold and naked.



Matthew  
6:30-32

If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.



Matthew  
6:30-32

If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you **“little-faiths?”** So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.



Matthew  
6:30-32

If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you **“little-faiths?”** So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the **pagans** run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.



Matthew  
6:31-33

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**



As his disciples our top priority must be to invest our resources in his kingdom, not worrying about our own needs but trusting that God will provide for us.



Jesus calls us to strike out and trust God for what we need. ... Jesus is probing into the heart of his followers to ask them if they value life more than kingdom and righteousness. Perhaps the best way to think about this is that *Jesus doesn't call us to be care-less about provisions but to be care-free*. ... Jesus isn't encouraging his disciples to be reckless. Instead, he's calling them to



Scot  
McKnight



follow him and to see that seeking first the kingdom and righteousness, reshapes what we value most.



Scot  
McKnight

Money matters; without it we can't do most things that a capitalist world requires.

Provisions matter; without food or drink or clothing we don't survive. But "matter" is not the same as "worship."



When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

Luke

14:15-21

Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'



“But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’

Luke  
14:15-21

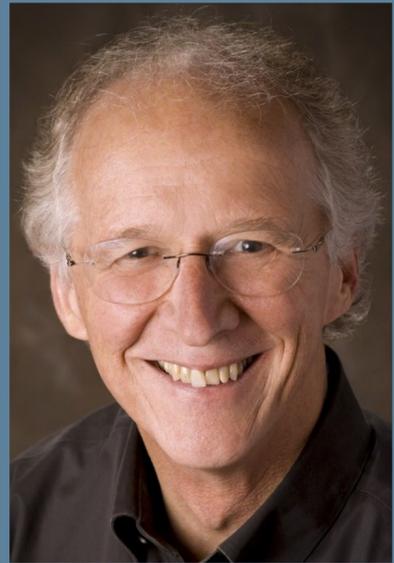
“Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’

“Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’



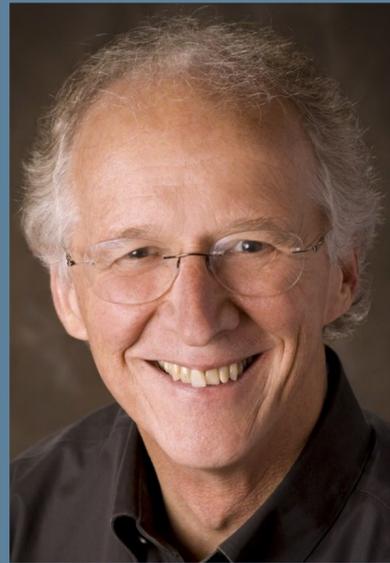
Luke  
14:15-21

“The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’



John  
Piper

The greatest enemy of hunger for God is not poison but apple pie. It is not the banquet of the wicked that dulls our appetite for heaven, but endless nibbling at the table of the world. ... For all the ill that Satan can do, when God describes what keeps us from the banquet table of his love, it is a piece of land, a yoke of oxen,



John  
Piper

and a wife. The greatest adversary of love to God is not his enemies but his gifts. And the most deadly appetites are not for the poison of evil, but for the simple pleasures of earth. For when these replace an appetite for God himself, the idolatry is scarcely recognizable, and almost incurable.









Kirk  
Johnson

“You have four Canadian citizens there. I’m calling on behalf of Mélanie Joly, who is a minister of economic development for Canada. You have four Canadian citizens. They were asked to go in there right now! I need your assurance that they’re going to get through ... Mélanie Joly wants them out. ... I need to be able to tell the minister that they’re through!”



Committing ourselves to his kingdom mission can be put us into some pretty vulnerable and scary situations, but as citizens of his kingdom, Jesus promises that he will be there to help us in our times of need.