

The One Thing: A Disciple’s Ambition

Matthew 6:33

- I. A Disciple’s Characteristics: 8 Blessings (5:1-12)
- II. A Disciple’s Influence: 2 Metaphors (5:13-16)
- III. A Disciple’s Righteousness: Six Contrasting Illustrations (5:17-48)
- IV. A Disciple’s Piety: Three Religious Practices (6:1-18): Giving, Praying, Fasting
- V. A Disciple’s Commitments: Four Contrasting Choices (6:19-34)
 - A. Heavenly treasure rather than earthly treasure (19-21)
 - B. Eternal perspective rather than a temporal perspective (22-23)
 - C. Service to God rather than enslavement to money (24)
 - D. Advancing God’s kingdom rather than acquiring stuff (25-34)

I. A Prohibition: Do not worry about the necessities of life. Why? Worry is _____.

The Text	Worry is . . .	The Point
Mat 6:25 “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious 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?”	NEEDLESS	God can be counted on to provide
Mat 6:26 “Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”	SENSELESS	God’s care of birds is a reminder of his care for his children.
Mat 6:27 “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”	USELESS	Worry can’t add hours to our lives
Mat 6:28-30 “And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”	FAITHLESS	Worry betrays the insufficiency of our confidence in God
Mat 6:31-32a “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things,”	GODLESS	Worry is characteristic of pagans who have no God to trust
Mat 6:32b “...and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.”	“PARENT-LESS”	Worry forgets who it is who cares for us.
Mat 6:34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”	COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE	Worry robs the present of energy needed to handle today’s problems

II. A Prescription: “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness”

- A. “But” → in contrast
 - To the _____ (who do not know or trust God as heavenly Father)
 - who “_____” material things, and
 - who are therefore continually _____ about them
- B. (“You”) = _____ who are _____ of the kingdom of heaven
- C. “Seek”
 1. Tense/voice/mood: present active imperative – “_____ seek”
 2. Range of meaning in the NT
 - look for (Matthew 28:5)
 - try to obtain/desire to possess (Matthew 26:59; John 8:50; Hebrews 11:6)
 - strive for (Philippians 2:21)

3. The verb is _____ with the negative command “do not worry” (31);
it is _____ with “eagerly seek” (32 – same verb root).

- _____ – scrambling to acquire things
- _____ – worry about getting enough

4. Meaning = the _____ of one’s person in _____ of a goal.

D. “the kingdom of God”

1. Implied contrast: “_____ kingdom”
2. This is the *subject* of the entire sermon. Meaning = the “_____” of God in my life and world.
3. Idea → Under God’s sovereign rule, I am a _____ of the resources he has entrusted to me for the advancement of his purposes.

E. “and his righteousness”

1. This is the *theme* of the entire sermon.
 - Basic meaning: _____ with God.
 - Extended meaning: the right _____ with God that results from submission to his rule, and the right _____ that results from a changed _____ (Matthew 5-6).
2. Idea → Conformity to the _____ and moral _____ of God.

F. “first” → “_____”

Summary: Be _____ with the spread of God’s rule in my own life (_____) and in my world (_____).

III. A Promise: “. . . and all these things will be added to you.”

A. “all these things” → our material needs

B. “will be added to you”

1. Idea: God assumes responsibility to meet the needs of those who are committed to his rule and his righteousness in their lives

2. Qualifications on the promise:

- The promise is not for everyone.
- The promise does not guarantee luxuries.
- The promise does not exempt disciples from earning their own living (2 Thes. 3:10).
- The promise does not exempt disciples from responsibility for others (Eph. 4:28).
- The promise does not exempt disciples from experiencing trouble (Mat. 10:29)

3. Implications

a. Material provisions are _____ in a kingdom where the *primary* benefits are the blessings of _____ the King and _____ his righteousness.

b. Many people seek to “_____” to the other more central commitments of their lives.

IV. Kingdom Principles

A. Christian disciples are expected to be _____ from everyone else.

B. The key to right behavior is right _____ plus right _____.

1. Right perspective: _____
2. Right commitment: God’s _____ and _____.

C. As we face the uncertainties of life, disciples are to _____ anxiety with _____ and _____ with God’s kingdom.

- Worry is _____ - _____
- God has committed himself to provide _____
- I should occupy myself with doing his will with the _____ I have.

D. When we have the right life-ambition, _____ ambitions become appropriate _____ to that _____ goal.