

INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:25-34

EXPOSITION

1. Command:

_____ (vv.25, 31, 34).

2. Problem:

_____ (v.30).

3. Solution:

_____ (v.33).

Application:

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Application:

Community Group Curriculum
For the week of April 27, 2014
“Fear of the Future”
Matthew 6:25-34

BIG “DON’T MISS THIS” POINT!

“WE WILL NOT FEAR THE FUTURE WHEN WE PRIORITIZE PLEASING GOD
OVER PROVIDING FOR OURSELVES.”

LET’S DIG IN!

“Get Started” Group Questions

- What are some of the most common things people worry about?

- Why do people worry about the future?

- Some would say worrying is normal. Agree or disagree? Explain.

- Finally, list the benefits of worrying and how worrying has improved your life and your walk with the Lord.

1. Read Matthew 6:19-24

This passage is a critical link to our key passage (vv. 25-34). Key point: If one makes the right choices there is “therefore” no reason that one should be anxious.

- a) Why do you think Jesus spoke these words *before* He urges His followers not to worry?

- b) In verse 21 Jesus says, “*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*” The treasure here means “a place where good and precious things are stored.” Discuss this verse. What does the heart have to do with worry?

- c) During your life have you observed others that tried “to have it both ways”, that is, serving God and serving money/riches simultaneously? What are your observations about those people?

2. Read Matthew 6:25-34

- a) What is the command given in verse 25? So, is worrying being disobedient to God?

NOTE: The definition of the word “anxious” (or worry) in this passage is a combination of two smaller words. It means, “to divide the mind.”

b) What is the point that Jesus is making in verse 26? Why should we take great comfort from the way the animal and plant kingdoms operate?

c) How does Jesus describe the "benefits" of worrying in verse 27?

NOTE: Medically, chronic worrying affects a person's daily life so much that it can interfere with their appetite, lifestyle habits, relationships, sleep and job performance. Many people who worry excessively are so anxiety-ridden that they seek relief in harmful lifestyle habits such as overeating, smoking or using alcohol and drugs.

d) Why do you think Jesus says in verse 30, "Oh you of little faith?" How is faith related to worry?

e) How does Jesus conclude this section on worry in verse 33? How does this compare to how He started it in verses 19-21?

3. Read Philippians 4:4-7

Read this passage in different versions to get a thorough "feel" of what Paul was saying. Key point: Paul's prescription against worry is simple: prayer!

a) What are the four commands in this passage? What is the promise that comes with obeying these commands? Which of the four commands is most difficult for you to put into practice?

b) What is the difference between prayer and supplication?

c) Compare the world's "peace" and God's "peace." How are they similar and how are they different? How can a believer enjoy the peace of God?

GET THIS! We are not to worry; rather, by prayer for yourselves and others, take everything to the Lord. The result of which is the peace of God. Without prayer, you have no peace. Without peace, you have no reason to rejoice.

PRAYER PLEASE

Make a list of all the things you are anxious about. Consciously offer each one to the Lord, thank Him for supplying you with peace and all other needs. Spend some time in thanksgiving about each matter.

FINAL THOUGHT

What if we were truly more concerned about pleasing God than providing for ourselves? We would be happy and delighted to see how the Lord daily provides our needs and we would see the kingdom of God advance as we give our best energies to that rather than wasting time worrying about things that we cannot control anyway.