

## Day 1: Matthew 6:24

***'No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.'***

In 1 Timothy 6:10 it says that the "love of money is the root of all evil." Though 1 Timothy is correct, this is not what Jesus is speaking of in the Sermon on the Mount. He is speaking of wealth and how wealth can control a person. If one has wealth then one can worry about protecting it and growing it. Investment managers talk about wealth as if it is a living thing that needs to grow. I heard someone say once that if they came into a huge sum of money they would reverse tithe. They would give away 90% and live on 10%. If one can have that attitude toward wealth then one will not be controlled by a lot of money, but instead, control it.

**Question:** What amount do you consider real wealth?

**Challenge:** What is 90% of your assets and can you live on it?

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 8:12-20

## Day 2: Matthew 6:25

***'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?'***

There are two things to know about this verse. One, worry means do not be anxious and two, life encompasses more than just eating and clothing and housing. We need to work to supply the basics in life but if we are anxious then we will not work but become immobilized. Life must have meaning and purpose in order to be worthwhile.

**Question:** Have you ever wondered where your next meal will come from? Have you ever been really hungry?

**Challenge:** Do a little analysis of your week. How often you were anxious about something?

**Scripture:** Acts 4:27-37

## Day 3: Matthew 6:26-27

***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. And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?'***

God is the creator of all creation; the animals, plants, the earth, seas and humans. God has given to each what they need to live. We as humans have been given what we need to live just as the birds have been given what they need. Humans have the capacity to worry but that capacity will not be of help to us in the business of living.

**Question:** Do Jesus' comments about not worrying make sense?

**Challenge:** Look up Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

**Scripture:** Luke 12:14-21

## Day 4: Matthew 6:28-30

***And why do you worry 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 clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?'***

In addition to God giving each portion of creation what they need to live, they are given their own beauty. Beauty is a part of creation just as air or water or land. God clothes us in beauty so that we are attractive. Beauty is not how the skin hangs on the bones but how the spirit glows within.

**Question:** What are the clothes that God gives us?

**Challenge:** Write down what you consider to be basic human needs.

**Scripture:** 1 Kings 10

## Day 5: Matthew 6:31-32

***Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.'***

Jesus is not calling us to be lazy or foolish. We cannot sit back and wait for the fruit to fall into our laps. We need to work because God has given us what we need to live but we need to use what God has given us. We are created to work for a living. Work (growing crops and making homes) is one way we find meaning in life. We are created to produce, not just consume. God told us to be fruitful and multiply. This means more than having babies, it means working to improve creation. We need to work, but to be anxious will not help us; in fact it will drain our energy so that we cannot work.

**Question:** Who are the Gentiles?

**Challenge:** If you did not worry about food, drink, clothes and shelter, what would you worry about?

**Scripture:** Luke 12:25-59

## Day 6: Matthew 6:33

***But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.'***

The way we can keep ourselves balanced between our material needs and spiritual needs is to make our goal in life to manifest the Kingdom of God in our living. To manifest something means make known, make it visible and clearly seen. We make it known by the values we hold and the actions we take that are consistent with those values. Our very basic belief is that God is and the creator of all that there is. God is saying that when we seek to live in harmony with the rest of creation and respect life we will receive what we need for living.

**Question:** What is the Kingdom of God?

**Challenge:** Can you come up with a balance between human needs and service to God?

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:1-23