

Matthew Chapter 6

Doing good to please God - *Giving to the Needy*

The context is the 69th week. No evidence of a church age. Christ will die in the 69th week. Its not revealed by all that's said. He's telling them to pray for the kingdom to come but they didn't do it. The expectation was that the kingdom will come but later He stops that.

[[Matthew 6:1]] Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. He told them to pray for the kingdom to come, but they werent doing it.

Jesus' warning against doing good to be seen by men

Jesus has just clearly shown us God's righteous standard; perhaps He is anticipating the thought "wouldn't everybody be impressed if I was like that?"

Charitable deeds is actually the word *righteousness*; Jesus is telling us to not do righteous acts for the sake of display.

Does this principle of Jesus contradict His previous command to *let your light so shine before men* (5:16)? No; although His followers are to be seen doing good works, they must not do good works to be seen.

Pray not to be seen of men but from the heart. Dont just do it to be seen under men. Do it to be pleasing of God. The Jews think their reward is going to be the kingdom. They will have an entrance into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Matthew 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [his] sheep from the goats:

Matthew 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Matthew 25:35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

These Jews have to do good works to get into the kingdom. We are born into the kingdom of God. We inherit the kingdom of God by birth. We can reign in the millenium by good works. They have to do good works to get into the kingdom.

1Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Colossians 3:22-24 Servants, obey in all things [your] masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

A Christian is to do what he does for inheritance, not salvation. He is saved by faith but is rewarded for doing good works.

[[Matthew 6:2]] Therefore when thou doest [thine] alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 'alms' - good works

Jesus gives examples of the wrong kind of giving and the right kind of giving.

It was customary in Jesus' day (as our own) to draw attention to one's giving through the public pledge.

Jesus tells the one who gives to hear the applause of men that he should savor the applause; because it will be all they get! The Greek is emphatic; when Jesus says they *have their reward*, the word *have* can be understood as "paid in full".

Instead, our giving is to be (if it were possible) even hidden from ourselves; though we cannot really be ignorant about our own giving, we can deny any indulgent self-congratulation.

If someone finds out that we have given something, have you automatically lost our reward? The issue is really a matter of *motive*; if you did it for your own glory, it doesn't matter if no one finds out (you will have no reward from God), and if you did it for God's glory, it doesn't matter who finds out, your reward will remain.

Jesus points out the exceeding value of doing good for the glory of God; how much better to receive our award from God - who rewards much more generously and much more openly than men.

They are presenting a false front.

in john 12 some believed on Christ but would not do right because they wanted to please men more than God.

John 12:41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

John 12:42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess [him], lest they should be put out of the synagogue:

The praise of men is an improper motive.

It leads to everlasting fire for those that didn't have good works, not the case with the Christian. The former people had to keep good works or go into everlasting fire. The Christian's salvation isn't based on good works. These people are like OT Jews and

have to keep the commandments. (see Daniel's 70th week). A hypocrite does good works to be seen (an actor, for example). It's presenting a false image. It's hypocrisy. The actor is saying things that are wrong. You can't produce proper fruit from an improper source. The Bible is rough, it separates the men from the boys.

Luke 16:15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

[[Matthew 6:3]] But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

'alms' - your righteous acts that God asked you to do.

It's in the sense of verses 1 and 2. Don't sound a trumpet just to please the crowd.

[[Matthew 6:4]] That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

God will reward you openly for it.

Everything doesn't have to be in secret. If you come to church every week just keep it a secret. Keep your good works a secret. What is your motive?

Some people have a dinner to get invited to other places. Do it for fellowship and to be a blessing.

Do it in private and bring glory to God. Don't seek rewards from people. Pride got the devil in trouble.

Luke 14:12 Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor [thy] rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee.

Luke 14:13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:

Luke 14:14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

(see the sermon on the mount also). You can lose rewards. We walk by faith but have more power than the Jew had to do so.

Prayer

[[Matthew 6:5]] And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites [are]: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

He is trying to prepare them for getting through the tribulation. Do you have to take the mark. They pray to be seen of men.

[[Matthew 6:6]] But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.]

We should meet with God in our *room* (or, "closet"); the idea is of a private place where we can impress no one but God alone. The specific word *room* was used for a storeroom where treasures were kept: There are treasures waiting for you in your prayer closet!

Jesus certainly isn't prohibiting public prayer, but our prayers should always be to God and not towards man.

The reward of the inheritance -> to get into the kingdom.
Daniel wasn't praying to please anybody but God. God is who rewards you. Closet prayer is what is advocated here. Public 'standard' baptists prayer - 'bless the pastor, the missionaries, bless the srevices etc' shows your private prayer life is insufficient. You get the spirit of prayer by praying in private.

[[Matthew 6:7]] But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen [do]: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

1John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

You are heard because you pray in the will of God. He hears if you pray according to His will. Not in Mary's name. The heathen uses traditions of men. You should pray in the name of Jesus.

1Kings 18:26 And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed [it], and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But [there was] no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

They prayed with repetition to Baal. Vain repetition doesn't make you get heard. Catholicism does that. 100 Hail Marys a day. The beads to count a prayer being said. Then you sitch prayers. Hypocrisy, heathenism.

The right way to pray

The right kind of prayer does not use *vain repetition*, which is any and every praying which is all words and no meaning, all lips and no mind or heart. The Rabbis had sayings like: "Whoever is long in prayer is heard" and "Whenever the righteous make their prayer long, their prayer is heard". One famous Jewish prayer began: "Blessed, praised, and glorified, exalted, and honored, magnified and lauded be the name of the Holy One". When we try to impress God with our many words, we deny who God is: a loving, yet holy Father; instead, we should follow the counsel of Ecclesiastes 5:2: *God is in heaven, and you are on earth; therefore let your words be few.*

[[Matthew 6:8]] Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Be different from a heathen. God isnt hard of hearing. He knows your needs. If its according to His will He will hear you. SPurgeon said short prayers were more effective, those like Moody prayed for hours. Try the spirit. See what makes you more spiritual. Always be ready to go into prayer. Especially to make a descision. (see Nemhemiah) Be instant in prayer.

[[Matthew 6:9]] After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

This is not the Lord's prayer, but the disciple's prayer. See John 17. Its an OT prayer to their father as a nation.

Exodus 4:23 And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, [even] thy firstborn.

God had Moses say to Pharoah -'let my son go'. Israel was His son. Today you must be born again to say 'Our Father'. Its not true of an unsaved man. The devil is their father. see 1john 3, john 8:44)

John 8:44 Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

The liberals pray this way.

'hallowed' - set apart **"Hallowed be thy name": God puts His Name very high, with only one thing above His Name, and that is His Word!**

'halloween' - day of the dead, pagan

[[Matthew 6:10]] Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as [it is] in heaven.

There are 7 petitions in here. 3 are Godward. Kingdom come, will be done, as it is in heaven.

There are 4 manward ones -

give us our daily bread, forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, lead us not unto temptation, deliver us from evil

In the bible the number 7 is usually broken down into 3's and 4's. 4000 - Christ - 3000 years. You dont see 6-1, 5-2. 7 is the number of perfection.

Thy will isnt done on earth. Gods will isnt done on earth like it is in heaven. Men arent submitting. Christ will rule in the literal, physical kingdom on earth. Its the kingdom of God first. Do right and recieve Christ as messiah, if they would have accepted the kingdom would have been brought in.

The right kind of prayer has a passion for God's glory and agenda; His *name*, *kingdom* and *will* are seen as the top priority.

[[Matthew 6:11]] Give us this day our daily bread.

thats ok **When Jesus says *bread*, He means real bread, as in the sense of daily provisions. God *does* care about everyday things.**

[[Matthew 6:12]] And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Their forgiveness is based on you forguven. You are forgiven because of Christ; those people were forgiven because they themselves forgave. Thats work. Not true of the Christian.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Yiou are forgiven because of Christ, not because you forgave other people. You are better off with God if you are forgiving and perhaps God will be more forgiving to you.

Do you forgive your debtors. The whole nation is corporate.

The one who is truly forgiven will show forgiveness to others;

[[Matthew 6:13]] And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

The greatest temptation Israel is getting to face is the AC. If they do the model prayer - God tells you what to do and how to do it. God will lead them into the wilderness and they will escape the AC. They should pray for the kingdom. They will escape the AC to a certain degree.

“Temptation” - Study the book of Job. Nothing can come upon you that is not filtered by the Father. Does He allow Satan to put us through trials? Yes, Job tells us that. Yet, all is under control and limitations by the Father.

More on the importance of forgiveness

[[Matthew 6:14]] For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

Its true for them doctrinally but not for us. Im forgiving on the basis of Christ's atonement.

[[Matthew 6:15]] But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Not true.

1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

This is a later revelation.

Forgiveness is required for those who have been forgiven; we are not given the luxury of holding on to our bitterness towards other people.

Your forgiveness is not conditional upon forgiving someone else. You are forgiven because Jesus Christ paid for your debts. Because you are forgiven you should forgive. (70x7 is how many times God forgave Israel 70x7 is also linked to Daniel 9)

Jesus has much more to say about forgiveness ([Matthew 9:2-6](#); [18:21-35](#); [Luke 17:3-4](#)); here, the emphasis is on the *imperative* of forgiveness - it is no option.

Fasting

[[Matthew 6:16]] Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

What to do. DON't say you are suffering when you fast. Don't just act out a part,. thats a hypocrites behavior. Lent - a hypocritical Catholic fast during Mardri Gra. (fat tuesday) Don't profess to be a religious drunk.

[[Matthew 6:17]] But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

Put oil on the head and clean up. Put on an appearance of not fasting so you aren't displaying the fast to other people.

[[Matthew 6:18]] That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

Its ok to put on appearances to please God.

Deny the flesh and seek God's will and favor. Its also a Christian pratices. Show God you are sacrificing becasue you need something more. Pray while fasting. God will realize you are more seriuos. The LOrd's fast -

Isaiah 58:6 [Is] not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

to release the Christian from the bonds of the flesh.

Isaiah 58:6 [Is] not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

- you are saying no to the flesh, you are not under its yoke. You are only seeking God's pleasure. The fast is to please and appease God. Deny sin by denying the flesh.

Mat II 2

People will have to abide by the rules to get into the kingdom.

thy kingdom come is for before it comes - people right before Daniel's 70th week. IN Daniel's 69th week, a few years before the crusification.

The right way to fast

The hypocritical scribes and Pharisees wanted to make sure that everybody knew they were fasting, so they would have a *sad countenance* and *disfigure their faces* so their "agony" would be evident to all. When hypocrites receive the admiration of men for these "spiritual" efforts, they receive all the reward they would ever get.

In contrast, Jesus' instructs to take care of ourselves as usual and to make the fast something of a secret before God.

However, notice that Jesus assumes that His followers *would fast (when you fast)*; but with most anything good like fasting, our corrupt natures can corrupt something good into something bad. A modern example of a good thing gone bad: the manner of dressing nice on Sunday; there is nothing wrong with this in itself, but if it is used to draw attention to one's self, something good has become something bad.

Observations on Jesus' teaching on doing good to please God

You can do a wonderful thing for the wrong motive and have it count for nothing before God; Christianity is a matter of the heart, not just outward works.

The real problem with the hypocrite is self interest; as D. Martin Lloyd-Jones said: "Ultimately, our only reason for pleasing men around us is that we may be pleased".

Treasures in Heaven

[[Matthew 6:19]] Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

[[Matthew 6:20]] But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

[[Matthew 6:21]] For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Love the Lord thy God with all your heart. If a Jew goes into the tribulation his end will be determined by what he loves. He will reap eternal life if he loves God or else the mark of the beast. The Christian can't lose his rewards but should also lay up treasures in heaven. A carnal Christian doesn't do spiritual things to lay up a supply for himself.

Heavenly banking

put other's needs first - put into the bank of heaven - laying out treasures in heaven
laying up wisdom - you will need it on a rainy day

Proverbs 8:18 Riches and honour [are] with me; [yea], durable riches and righteousness. Christ is our wisdom. Wisdom speaks.

Proverbs 8:19 My fruit [is] better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.

You can get revenue from Him that you can't get from gold and silver.

Proverbs 8:20 I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:

Proverbs 8:21 That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.

You sow to Wisdom and you'll reap treasures.

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Where do you find wisdom? God reveals wisdom in the Bible. You are laying up treasures of wisdom. If you sow to the spirit you will reap the spirit of the word.

Matthew 10:17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

Matthew 10:18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

Matthew 10:19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

Matthew 10:20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

There you are reaping something you've laid up. God gets you in a hard place and then He supplies your need. Why? Because you banked up ahead of time. Supply the needs of others. Suffer for righteousness. The Jew in the tribulation will suffer for righteousness. His reward will be treasures in heaven. He will be given the Kingdom, the millennial kingdom, the Kingdom. Plus everlasting life, a spiritual treasure.

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together.

2Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

2Timothy 2:11 [It is] a faithful saying: For if we be dead with [him], we shall also live with [him]:

2Timothy 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with [him]: if we deny [him], he also will deny us:

2Timothy 2:13 If we believe not, [yet] he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do [it] heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Colossians 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

God will give His Son the throne of David because He suffered. Its a natural reward. We lay up treasures by doing the same thing.

2 separate inheritances

1) a hereditary inheritance you can't lose. Your new nature, your position in Christ, eternity with Him, a new house. Thats because you are born of the spirit.

2) earned inheritance Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

The Holy spirit leads them in conviction and repentance and then they are born again. You are an heir of God because you are born of God. You get a body like your Father and can live with him. Thats hereditary inheritance. Suffer with Him and be glorified with Him. He will reign in the millenium and you can reign with Him. Thats earned inheritance. (see luke 19- the man loses the right to reign) Your inheritance of God because you are born of God is not conditional. Thats conditioned on you receiving Christ. Once you receive Christ thats set. You have the Divine nature, you get a new body. Reigning in the millenium is an earned reward you get by suffering with Him. Doing the same thing as He did. You sow to the flesh you reap corruption. The cross now he crown later. You have to live in a Godly way. He made himself a servant and suffered, He was later exalted.

If your'e only interested in the things of this world then your body doesnt have light, but darkness. How great is that darkness?
see mat 7:27

If a Jew in the tribulation doesnt have his eye on the light it will be on the antichrist instead of being on Christ. This is darkness incarnate. This can be applied to a sinner today. If a sinner today is not looking to Christ for deliverance than his body will be full of darkness. Forever he's gonna be in darkness.

- no man can serve two masters -

James 1 talks about a double-minded man, a man not trying to please God, but rather the world, the flesh and the devil. In verse 24 he introduces a third idea: (no man can serve two masters)

You can't be in the middle of the road, its impossible. Not to love God is to hate him. (deu 5:9) If you dont love him, God considers that you hate him. Jesus says later on, "he that is not with me is against me." (chapter 12 verse 30)

If your'e not for the church than you are against it. You cannot serve God and mammon? aramaic for riches. The Jew in the tribulation will lose the right to buy and sell. You are going to have to take the mark of the beast or get killed.

Three positions are outlined in 22-24:

1) for God - live only for God - thats a single-minded man, a double minded-man tries to

be spiritual and at the same time get along with the world. Like Lot, although he wasnt spiritual. (mat 22:37)

2) for evil - If you have your sights set on God then your body will be full of light and you will light up a dark place, but if you live only for evil or mammon? of riches, you will fall. Its darkness and damnation, especially in the tribulation. If you dont damn yourself you will damn others.

- james - buy and sell and get gain -

- in the next context he is talking about the second coming (James 5)

3) impossible - trying to serve God and mammon - thats impossible.

example - gen 25:27-34

there is no middle of the road, but the hypocrite tries to do this. He tries to

play both sides against the middle and he has to act to do it.
verse 25 -

He getting ready to say conditional promises (see verse 33) eating, drinking and necessities of the body. People are concerned about what they eat, drink and wear and those things will not be added unto you until you've done righteousness. You can't apply that to today. In the tribulation this is doctrinally true, a man will lose everything unless he's done right.

The place of material things: covetousness

The choice between two treasures

The Greek more literally says *do not treasure for yourself treasures on earth*; the idea is that earthly treasures are temporary and fading away. The issue isn't that earthly treasures are intrinsically bad; but they are no ultimate value either - then how can we explain our dedication to continually expanding our earthly treasures?

In contrast, heavenly treasures are everlasting and incorruptible; they can be enjoyed now (in a sense), but they are not enjoyed in their fullness on this side of eternity.

Jesus draws the conclusion that you can only have your treasure (and your heart) in one place; we can't lay up treasure on earth and on heaven at the same time.

"You can't take it with you" expression is wrong—you can (Luke 16) you must send it up ahead. Nothing wrong with amassing wealth, the issue is whom are you doing it for. "The love of money is the root of all evil." Money is not the root of all evil, the love of money is. Where is your treasure? We are not to store up treasure for ourselves. You can take it with you. Convert your position, your leverage, your opportunities to opportunities for the Lord. In so doing you lay up your treasures in Heaven.

In the parable of the unjust servant the Lord does not commend his righteousness, He notes that the servant was wise in using his present position to for your future interest. The point He is making is that the children of unrighteousness are wiser than the children of the light in the sense that they are smart enough to know how to win. One way to win is to use your present position to protect your future interest.

Where your treasure is there your heart will be also. You will become like the gods you worship (Psalms 135:18).

[[Matthew 6:22]] The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

A single eye is so in the sense of one purpose - a man looking at one object.\

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

You are to focus on Him and your body will be full of light.

1John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

singleness of attitude.

don't look on the things of the world - not a single eye - looking on things from a carnal standpoint- an evil eye

If you are focused on God you have light.

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

[[Matthew 6:23]] But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great [is] that darkness!

The choice between two visions

The idea behind having a *good* eye is either being *generous* or being *single minded*.

In any case, Jesus tells us that either our eye is directed at heavenly things (and therefore filled with light) or it is directed at earthly things (and therefore darkened).

Where our eye is directed, the rest of our being will follow!

The choice between two masters

[[Matthew 6:24]] No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Having two masters is not like working two jobs; here, Jesus has the master and slave relationship in view. Jesus states that serving two masters is a simple impossibility; if you think that you are successfully serving two masters, you are deceived!

We must remember that we don't have to be rich to serve mammon (money); the poor can be just as greedy and covetous as the rich.

The point: Jesus is calling us to an allegiance to the kingdom of God, an allegiance that is willing to deny a passing world.

And Jesus makes it clear that there is no middle ground; we are forced to direct our focus in one direction or another.

The place of material things: anxiety over material things

Do Not Worry

[[Matthew 6:25]] Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

He getting ready to say conditional promises (see verse 33) eating, drinking and necessities of the body. People are concerned about what they eat, drink and wear and those things will not be added unto you until you've done righteousness. You can't apply that to today. In the tribulation this is doctrinally true, a man will lose everything unless he's done right.

Therefore: because the Kingdom of God is so vastly superior to earthly pursuits, *it* deserves our attention.

We should not get tangled up worrying about the things of this world, because our life is more than those things.

There is a difference between a godly sense of responsibility and an ungodly, untrusting worry; however, an ungodly, untrusting sense of worry usually masquerades as "responsibility". We *are* to be concerned with the right things; the ultimate issues of life - and we leave the management (and the worry) over material things with our heavenly Father.

"Be not anxious": Linked to verse before about who is your master; who do you get your provision from? Many mistake this verse, and assume that it is not necessary for us to do any planning. Issue is not to be anxious, does not say not to think about tomorrow. No man builds a bridge but he first count the costs thereof.

Worry is a sin. It is a form of blasphemy. Worry is assuming a responsibility that God did not intend for you to have. Planning is the futurity of today's decisions.

The worry Jesus is speaking of debases man to the level of an animal, who is merely concerned with physical needs. Your life is *more*; you have eternal matters to pursue!

[[Matthew 6:26]] Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them.

i(skin for skin) - Job labor for the belly

If a Jew takes thought for that in the tribulation he has to take the mark to eat. If a Jew won't eat, the Lord will take him into the wilderness and feed him manna (rev. 12) Trust God first and He will supply it. For a Christian it's also true. If you are more concerned about what you eat and what's on your body than you are not seeking after righteousness, it's only carnal desires. Life is more important than meat - life everlasting. When a man seeks the Kingdom of God, that's life that leads to eternal life.

are ye not much better than they?

[[Matthew 6:27]] Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

Shows there is real purpose in illustrating sermons. Christ always used illustrations. carnal people need carnal illustrations in order to understand spiritual things. God reveals his power through the creation, the carnal. People today are more interested in gathering into barns than storing treasures in heaven.

sow -reap

If you do what God's told you to do and you and live right, He will supply your needs. Most Christians who do right, God will supply their needs.

This is to be saved people.

joh 3:36

To a jew in the house of Israel and to a Christian these things are true, but not to an unsaved man. (see mat 5:36) (you cant add a cubit to your head)

[[Matthew 6:28]] And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

[[Matthew 6:29]] And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

[[Matthew 6:30]] Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, [shall he] not much more [clothe] you, O ye of little faith?

any vegetation - he's gennerally applying it to grass (see 1st peter 1:24)

'grass' - vegetation

some grass has flowers. If the flesh is likened to grass then God will take care of you. He supplies the needs of lost folks, who He going to destroy, so He will takes care of you. (cloth you of little faith)

God says that its more important to do what's right. Be more concerned about your ministry than the other things. You need a blance, you dont want to be too carnal.

Example and arguments against worry

The birds are provided for by God, and if He takes care of them, how much more will He take care of us? But take careful note: the birds *work*, but don't *worry*.

Worry accomplishes nothing; we can add nothing to our lives by worrying. There may be greater sins than worry, but there are none more debilitating and useless.

The Greek may mean *adding to life* instead of *adding to height*, but the thought is the same. We actually harm ourselves through worry; stress is one of the great contributors to disease and poor health.

God even takes care of the *grass of the field*, He will certainly take care of you.

[[Matthew 6:31]] Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

Dont seek after what the Gentiles seek after.

He knows your needs. To get what you need - seek first the kingdom of God. Submit yourself under righteousness, seek Him first. If the Jew seeks after righteousness in the tribulation he will get the Kingdom. The sun will be seven times brighter than it is now, (verse on sowing behing him reaping) A regenerating earth, the curse will be lifted. Same for a Christian. (see Phillipians, 2 Cor 9 sow -reap) seek the kingdom of God and He will suply the spiritual things.

[[Matthew 6:32]] (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Let the heathen worry about those things! You have a heavenly Father that knows your needs.

We are invited to know a freedom from the worry and anxiety that comes from undue concern about material things; we can reflect the same kind of heart that Matthew Henry showed when he said the following after being robbed:

Lord, I thank You:

That I have never been robbed before

That although they took my money, they spared my life

That although they took everything, it wasn't very much

That it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed

[[Matthew 6:33]] But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Summary: Put God's kingdom first - He will take care of these things!

Let this be the acid test when you are in trouble: Am I seeking the Kingdom of God first?

In particular regard to the context Jesus is speaking to, we must ask ourselves this question: is physical well-being a worthy object to which I will devote your life?

If you think it is, then your god is mammon, your life is cursed with worry, and you live life as an animal, concerned mostly with physical needs.

If you do not think that your physical-well being is a worthy object to live your life for, you then may enjoy heavenly treasure, rest in divine provision, and fulfill God's highest purpose for man: fellowship with Him, and being part of His kingdom.

Remember: this is the choice that you made when you became a Christian; but you reinforce that decision, or deny that decision, everyday of your life.

[[Matthew 6:34]] Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day [is] the evil thereof.

The implication is that if your'e worried about what you are going to eat and drink tommorrow you wont be worried about poleasing God. Supply God with what He wants and He will supply your needs. DOnt waste so much time worrying about tomorrow.

There is enough evil today, without worrying about tomorrow. Dont worry about the afternoon, during the morning. (sufficient is the evil)

A conclusion with common sense

If you *must* worry, worry only for the things of today; most of the worry we practice regards things that we have absolutely no control over anyway.