

# ***What matters ... our focus***

*Matthew 6:33*

*CrossLife online Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020*

## **1. Introduction ...**

Songs and their message- Don't worry - be happy!!

But I do worry - sleepless night worrying about

- friends of mine that will lose their livelihood
- Families that lose their rhythm
- My grandson who will spend the first six months of his life not seeing any other babies
- My wife working on the frontline of healthcare

The world is a place full of worry right now. Those songs have some truth about them - but the ground of being happy and not worrying is not just power of thinking positive. Indeed Jesus said don't worry!! as we finish our series on what matters - Jesus' words about what matters remain - Matthew 6:25-34

What matters? Our focus ...

## **2. Don't worry (25) ...**

God is our master don't focus on what you eat drink and wear

““Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear.”

Matthew 6:25 NIV

Therefore - the context (19-24) - the divided focus of world (mammon) and God. Can't do both. Where your heart is where your treasure is ...

Jesus applies that truth. Why does he say don't worry? 3 reasons ...

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## ***(a) It doesn't reflect how God has made us (25)***

*"Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?"* Matthew 6:25 NIV

The answer is yes (In the Greek too). We are more than physical

## ***(b) It is unnecessary as God cares for us***

Object lessons of the birds, longevity of life and the flowers (26-30)

## ***(c) We are God's children (31-33)***

Begs the question ...

## ***3. How do God's children engage with worrisome stuff ...***

### ***(a) compare with how the world engages***

"For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them."

Matthew 6:32 NIV

These things - food, clothes, long life

'Seek' - search after, run or strive after or toward an object"

Picture of the rat race - the fear and responds to covid-19 as they fear for their lives wanting to add days to it

### ***(b) seek God's kingdom and his righteousness first***

God and his way - ahead of food, clothes, life (health) - the sermon in the mount- the beatitudes

Seek him, priorities him, focus on him, which means ...

- Hear from God - read his word

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- Cast your cares on him (pray)
- Remind each other (meet together)
- Make Jesus and his way your primary FB post ahead of anything else
- Make Jesus and His way your focus ahead of fears and management of COVID-19
- Be generous like Jesus to others like your neighbours as they struggle and worry

And .. the Context of this passage - our money. Don't hoard or hold back - keep being generous and share even as your income goes down - Jesus knew that was the one if the greatest challenges of kingdom of God to us - even today in a COVID-19 world. Bible scholar J Hampton Keathley puts Jesus words into perspective ...

*"Scripture has a tremendous amount to say about money or material possessions. Sixteen of thirty-eight parables of Jesus deal with money. One out of every ten verses in the New Testament deal with that subject. Scripture has 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but over 2000 verses on the subject of money. This is obviously important, but why? Because a person's attitude or bearing toward money is so determinative on his relationship with God, on the fulfillment of his purpose in this life, and on the character of his life."*

<https://bible.org/article/perspectives-faith-kingdom-god-matthew-619-34>

What matters? Our focus - that is first and foremost on the Lord Jesus and his kingdom. Even above our dwindling wallets.

God is caring, god is trustworthy, god knows us so

*"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

Matthew 6:34 NIV

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### **4. Conclusion**

So Matt don't worry. Those sleepless nights - look to the Lord Jesus. Who said,

*"Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"*

Matthew 6:27 NIV

Those worries about your friends - seek after the Lord Jesus

Those worries about your family - seek after the Lord Jesus.

And you know what? If you search after God and his way first, then there is a promise ...

*"... and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Matthew 6:33 NIV

So the most strategic thing to do to find life, food, drink, clothing —- seek God first.

Activities

Memory verse - Matthew 6:33

### ***Questions to discuss -***

1. What is your greatest fear and concern that gets your focus about COVID-19? If you seek Jesus and his kingdom first, how will that have you less worried?
2. What can you do the next time you hear "coronavirus crisis" or "corona virus fears" on the TV or social media to show you are seeking Jesus and his kingdom
3. How many FB COVID-19 posts will you post this week that shows you seeking Jesus and his kingdom first in the midst of this COVID-19 world?

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4. Discuss together as a family as a couple how you will reflect these truths in how you deal with your money, even dwindling money at this time.
5. How will you practise and behave which declares to turn world that this COVID-19 world is not a place of fear and worry, but an opportunity to focus on God and trust Him

Because that's what matters - our focus

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Matthew 6:33 NIV