

Introduction:

- A man named Stumpy illustrates how money affects people. Stumpy and his wife Martha went to the state fair every year and every year when Stumpy saw the antique bi-plane he would say, "Martha, I'd like to ride in that airplane." Martha always replied, "I know Stumpy, but that airplane ride costs 10 dollars, and 10 dollars is 10 dollars. One year Stumpy and Martha went to the fair and Stumpy said, "Martha, I'm 81 years old. If I don't ride that airplane I might never get another chance." Martha replied, "Stumpy, that airplane ride cost 10 dollars, and 10 dollars is 10 dollars. The pilot overheard them and said, "Folks, I'll make you a deal. I'll take you both up for a ride. If you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say one word, I won't charge you: but if you say one word it's 10 dollars." Stumpy and Martha agreed and up they went. The plot did all kinds of twists and turns, rolls and dives, but not a word was heard. He did all his tricks over again, but still not a word. When they landed, the pilot turned to Stumpy and said, "By golly, I did everything I could think of to get you to yell out, but you didn't." Stumpy replied, "Well, I was gonna say something when Martha fell out, but 10 dollars is 10 dollars."
- How heavy does something have to be, to be too heavy? Consider the following story: A psychologist walked around a room while teaching stress management to an audience. As she raised a glass of water, everyone expected they'd be asked the "half empty or half full" question. Instead, with a smile on her face, she inquired: "How heavy is this glass of water?" Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz. She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, it's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my arm. If I hold it for a day, my arm will feel numb and paralyzed. In each case, the weight of the glass doesn't change, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes." **APPLICATION** The stresses and worries in life are like that glass of water. Think about them for a while and nothing happens. Think about them a bit longer and they begin to hurt. And if you think about them all day long, you will feel paralyzed – incapable of doing anything." It's important to remember to let go of your stresses. As early ... as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night. Remember to put the glass down!
- Let's remember as we begin today that we are on the topic of the Kingdom. And so far we have established that the Kingdom refers to the rule of God.
- Matthew 6:31-34, really starts at verse 19. To understand 6:33 you have to have this entire section from vs 19-vs 34. We have to mine down to get to the gold...
 - *Where your treasure is there the desire of your heart will be also.* 21
 - *You cant serve two masters.* vs 24
 - *Don't worry,* is said by Jesus four times.
 - *Have faith* 29
 - *And seek the Kingdom* vs 33.
- Four worries, five questions, one priority, and a promise.

I. Jesus Calls Out Four Worries

- A. Worry defined: Gr. *merimnai*, *μεριμναι*- means to have concern, to be anxious. "*The plural μεριμναι is often used for the cares of life which disturb sleep, from which refuge is sought in*

love or drink, and which only death can end." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 584). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

1. The root of worry is fear. Fear was the number one issues that was thrown at my feet by you the first Sunday of the year, regarding the issues that you wanted victory over.
 2. Fear is: "A painful emotion or passion excited by an expectation of evil, or the apprehension of impending danger." Webster 1828 IE. Some of you wont let your foot hang over the side of the bed for fear that something will get you. IE. Home Alone, in the basement is the furnace that growls, and flames up, and clangs.
 3. Other words that function as synonyms: alarm, anxiety, dread, panic, bother, fret, stress, trouble, sweat.
- B. Jesus addresses worry four times in our passage:
1. 25, *I tell you not to worry about everyday life.* Has to do with food, drink, clothing,
 2. 28, *Why worry about your clothing.*
 3. 31, *Don't worry about what you will eat, drink, or wear.* He brings this up twice.
 - a) These three are very common or basic needs we have in life. You have to have these basics to survive, to stay alive.
 - b) Jesus addresses the basics food, water, clothing. If we can get victory over the basics then all of life will follow. In other words...what Jesus is teaching is foundational to everything else.
 - c) We seek the Kingdom (the rule of God) because in the eyes of God it is more important than the very things that allow us to live in this life. Water, Shelter, Food top three needs in this life.
 4. 34, *Don't worry about tomorrow.*
- C. Worry is something we all face. IE. I remember listening to my wife practicing counting with our grandson. It conjured up an interesting thought. As she cheered when he reached 20, a big deal for their age, it occurred to me that learning how to count is not necessarily the great thing we make it out to be. In fact, it is the beginning of many of our troubles. My grandson, with his whole counting career ahead of him, will feel compelled to keep track of countless things (pun intended) during his life. From his age and how many fingers and toes he has, he will graduate to wins and losses on the baseball field, to his grade scores and G.P.A., to his daily caloric intake, to who owes him what and how much, to all the offenses he has suffered, etc., etc. If he becomes a writer, he'll be concerned with how many books he sells. If he becomes a pastor, he'll monitor how many attend his church. God forbid he should become an accountant! No matter what he goes on to do, he will worry about the numbers until the day he retires. But even then he won't retire from counting. Instead, he'll worry about the Stock Market and how much is in his retirement account. Until the day he breathes his last breath, he will be busy worrying and counting, counting and worrying. Worry is something we all face.
1. "You have the right to worry but having the right to worry does not make worrying right."
 2. "Worrying may be a natural response but a natural response does not make worrying natural."
 3. "Worry is interest paid on a debt that never comes due." It is a fear of perishing. Too often we count out of fear, insecurity, or pride.

II. Jesus Asks Five Questions

- A. Jesus asks five questions in our passage.

1. When Jesus asks us a question He wants us to discover something.
 2. When Jesus asks us a question, you can count on the answer to be one of importance in your life.
 3. The questions He asks starts us mining down for the answers. There is a progression:
- B. Five Questions:
1. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing?
 - a) Yes, there is a higher purpose.
 - b) And Jesus introduces God into the conversation. Look at the birds, they do not have refrigerators yet **YOUR** heavenly Father feeds them.
 - c) Jesus is saying to us: connect the dots! Your life is more than food or clothing it is about your relationship to Father! Your life has purpose because you are connected to your heavenly Father.
 2. Question #2: And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?
 - a) Yes, I am more valuable than birds and flowers.
 - b) It only makes sense that if God cares for birds and feeds them that He would care for me and feed me.
 - c) In fact, Jesus says, "And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?"
 - d) He is telling His hearers, by being connected to God and His Kingdom you have value.
 - e) There is a purpose and a place for you in the Kingdom because you are valuable to Papa!
 3. Question #3: Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? Let me translate this another way: "Can all your control add a single moment to your life?
 - a) The question is a 'you' verses God question! So the answer is....
 - b) No, they can not! If they can't add to your life, then leads us to...Question #4
 4. Question #4: And why worry about your clothing?
 - a) If God cares for wild flowers He will certainly care for you!
 - b) Solomon in all his glory was not as beautiful as they are.
 - c) Certainly - πολλο μᾶλλον - much more! It is an absolutely inclusive statement. God will certainly care for you; or how much more God will care for you!
 - d) So if the higher purpose is to relate to God, and in relating to Him we receive value, and worry cant add a moment to my life, but God certainly can as He cares for me... Question #5...
 5. Why do you have so little faith?
 - a) Why do you have so much trust in yourself?
 - b) Verse 32 it matters what dominates your thoughts.
 - c) To trust in self with worry is to not be in faith.
 - d) Trust God!
- C. Jesus asks all those questions to show us the futility of our own strength in lite of the goodness and beauty of God! He is actually leading us to the place He is now going to command us to go. He is giving us the priority of the Kingdom!

III. Jesus Give Us The Priority of Life

- A. Seek the Kingdom/seek the rule of God. Why? **The simple, yet profound, reason** we must seek God's Kingdom is that thousands of years of history show that we humans cannot effectively rule ourselves; and in the end, all human governments apart from God will fail.
1. Therefore seek the rule of God. God's rule is what is valuable to us.

2. Seek - ζητεω (Zeteo) to look for. To search ardently after.
 - a) Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Aren't you glad Jesus looked hard for you. Aren't you glad He left the place of comfort, became a man and died for you and I?
 - b) The woman with the lost coin 'zeteos' to find it.
 - c) When someone is actually seeking, energy is being expended.
 - (1) Shepherd lost a sheep and went looking.
 - (2) Woman lost a coin and tore the house up trying to find, it.
 - d) People seek after what is valuable to them. The value causes them to seek. Having seen the value of God the Father caring for us, Jesus says, "Seek His Kingdom!" Why? Because it is valuable. People seek after what is valuable to them. IE. There is an orange string under one of the seats. Well, no one will go looking for that. But if I said, "There is money under your chair." You would start looking.
 - e) When we are under His Lordship we follow His instruction. When He is in control of your life, that is the kingdom of God.
- B. First - πρωτον - proton - first in sequence, first in order, first in rank.
 1. The is the first thing you do in the instructions. IE. The instructions read, First make sure you have all the parts. What man follows that? The ones who are successful.
 2. Jesus is saying, "there should be exclusive orientation to the divine kingdom and righteousness." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 966). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans. Align your life with the Kingdom above all things.

IV. A Huge Promise

- A. Two ways to look at the promise:
 1. One seek the Kingdom and this stuff will be added to your life.
 2. Seeking the Kingdom is more important than the basic necessities of life. Seeking the Kingdom is the primary necessity of life. Don't put the cart before the horse,
- B. The promise is: If you seek first the Kingdom and righteousness all the other things that you were worried about will just be given to you.
- C. If you seek first the Kingdom/the rule of God, know that the things your were seeking...they will now be seeking you!

Conclusion:

- A lack of faith can bring a lot of anxiety into our lives. So instead of worrying, we should put God and His will first in our lives. Verse 20 "*Why do you have so little faith.*" Some of you need to trust Him more.
- Sometimes we do not seek because we do not even know what we are looking for. Let me help you. You are seeking God. To know Him and get closer to Him. You want to live for Him.
- Invitation

"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19, NLT)

Quicksand, frozen water, rip tides, - all have panic in mind. But if you panic you will most likely die. Do the opposite: be calm, trust.
Star Wars "Luke use the force."