

Overcoming Financial Fears

Intro

- a. Worrying and fear is common in our world
- b. In fact worrying is seen as a good thing
 - i. 2017 NBCNews Article 'How to Worry Better'
 - 1. 'worry plays an important role in life'
 - 2. 'it is better to worry than not to worry'
 - ii. Anxiety disorders are the most common mental disorder in the US
 - 1. Finances are one of the biggest fears/worries
- c. Transition: Continuing our series on fear
 - i. How we can see can overcome our financial fears

Transition: The first step in overcoming financial fears is to:

- 1. Stop worrying
 - a. Proof
 - i. v.25 – For this reason
 - 1. Actually we need context – 'For'
 - 2. V.25 is in the middle of Jesus' teaching on money
 - 3. V.19
 - 4. V.20
 - 5. V.21
 - a. Summary v.19-21
 - i. Jesus is saying to not treasure or value materials more than heavenly treasures:
 - 1. The latest tech
 - 2. Cars

- 3. Houses etc.
 - ii. Invest your money and heart in:
 - 1. The church
 - 2. Seeing the lost saved
 - iii. These treasures last forever unlike earthly ones
 - iv. Where you put your money, where you put your ultimate joy and hope in, is where your heart is
 - v. Is your heart for this world or the kingdom of God?
6. V.22
7. V.23
- a. Summary v.22-23
 - i. Jesus then explains that where your heart is affects how you are able to perceive things clearly
 - ii. If heart is in this world then you're heart is dark and you're full of confusion and anxiety
 - iii. But if your heart is invested in God's kingdom you are full of light and can understand life and God's will for you clearly
8. Finally Jesus challenges who we serve in V.24
- a. Summary v.24
 - i. You can only serve God or money

Transition: So now we can fully understand v.25 when Jesus says, 'for this reason'

- ii. Jesus is saying:
 - 1. If you treasure God's kingdom over all, stop worrying!
 - 2. Since you can see clearly and understand God's will in your life because you value God over all, stop worrying!
 - 3. If you serve God and God alone, stop worrying!

4. Basically if you are a Christian, stop worrying!

iii. Challenge

1. Don't worry about your life! (v.25)

- a. Don't worry about a virus taking your life!
- b. If treasure is in heaven, then following God > than your life!
- c. Your life is ultimately just an earthly treasure
- d. John 12:25

2. Don't worry about having food to eat! (v.25)

3. Don't worry about having clothes to wear! (v.25)

- a. You serve God not money!
 - i. People believe the only thing that will take care of them is money
 - ii. The truth: Only God can truly take care of you!

4. Life > food + clothing! (v.25)

iv. Move down to v. 27- worrying is a waste of time!

1. Proof

- a. V.27
- b. Rhetorical question
- c. Worrying does nothing good
 - i. Worrying causes over stress
 - ii. Worry saps your energy
 - iii. Worry weakens your immune system from stress making it easier to get sick

v. So stop worrying!

vi. If your treasure is in heaven which can't rot or be stolen don't worry!

vii. If your heart is in heaven you can see life clearly so don't worry!

viii. If you serve God alone don't worry!

ix. Example

1. Martha/Mary
2. Stop being worried busybody like Martha
3. Just sit at Jesus' feet like Mary
4. If you want to overcome financial fears -> Stop worrying!

Transition: Second step to overcome financial fears:

2. Trust that God will provide
 - a. Argument from lesser to greater v.26
 - b. God feeds (v.28)
 - i. If God feeds the birds, what about you being made in image being his child?
 - ii. Illustration
 1. Maybelle and I last apartment
 2. Next to a lake
 3. Popular Sunday lunch = kebab
 4. Keto = no pita bread
 5. So we feed geese instead with bread
 6. Bread = Entire size of 4 large dinner plate
 7. God truly feeds his animals in mysterious ways!
 - c. God clothes (v.29-30)
 - i. God decorates the fields with beautiful lilies
 - ii. Not even Solomon the richest man who ever lived > Jeff Bezos was dressed more beautiful than the lily fields
 - iii. Illustration
 1. We've all seen breathtaking views of God's creation right?
 2. Shenandoah Park
 3. Grand Canyon

4. No man made creation can top God's creation in terms of beauty

d. Challenge

i. So if God can make dirt incredibly beautiful will he not clothe you? His child?

ii. Psalm 8:4

iii. Jesus rebukes us

1. 'O, you of little faith!'

iv. When all we think about is

1. Paying bills

2. How we are going to put food on table

3. We put little faith in God

a. Who feeds birds

b. Decorates the ground he created

v. That is why we are not to worry

vi. Instead trust God will provide

vii. Transition: You know who doesn't trust God will provide?

1. Unbelievers

2. V.32 -'For the gentiles eagerly seek all these things..'

3. Unbelievers worry so much they turn to alcohol and drugs -> become useless

4. Unbelievers worry so much they over work -> destroying priorities -> divorce and losing everything

viii. Illustration

1. Many unbelievers say 'No, worry is good, it helps me keep my job!'

2. Coworker who was excellent

3. But always worried that he will lose his job

4. Constantly on edge

5. That's not a way to live life!

- 6. They live this way because they reject God
- 7. They are all on their own
- ix. Transition: But as Christians, Jesus says, 'your heavenly father knows that you need all these things' (v.32)
- e. Challenge
 - i. God knows more than we do that we need food and clothing
 - ii. Like parents who know more that their baby needs food and clothing than the baby does!
 - iii. He knows we need money to survive
 - iv. So if we want to overcome financial fears
 - v. We need to trust that God will provide!

Transition: The third step to overcome financial fears is to:

- 3. Seek God's kingdom first
 - a. V.33
 - i. Explanation
 - 1. On God's side: he knows that we need
 - 2. But on our side, our responsibility
 - 3. Jesus is saying we need to seek his kingdom first and his righteousness
 - 4. Sounds counter-intuitive?!
 - a. If all I do is read my bible/go to church
 - b. Where is the food coming from?
 - c. The food isn't going to just suddenly appear in the fridge
 - d. And walk into my mouth is it?!
 - 5. Yet this is where faith/trust in God comes

6. We are to seek God's kingdom first
 - a. Means that God is highest/ultimate priority for Christians
 - b. 'Not my will but your will be done Lord!'
 - c. Whatever I want, whatever I have that even seems good, if it goes against God's word:
 - d. I give it up and follow God and his word!
7. Not only obedience however: genuine love/passion for God's kingdom
 - a. We are to seek God's kingdom in our personal lives as well by worshipping him
8. We also seek his righteousness first
 - a. Letting God work in our life to make us more like Christ
 - b. Less sinful, more holy
9. We want to see the lost saved/make disciples
 - a. Love + passion for God's kingdom so great = first in our heart above marriage and family
10. Illustration
 - a. Lillas Trotter was an extremely gifted lady in the late 1800s
 - b. She had a promising career in art
 - c. But decided to minister to prostitutes in London
 - d. And then bring the gospel to Algiers
 - e. Even though her health suffered
 - i. She worked 40 years in filthy, desolate and violent places to share the gospel
 - f. However she was so gifted in literature, art, intelligence and faith
 - g. She became favorite student of famous artist: John Ruskin
 - h. Instead Trotter decided to share the gospel in Africa

- i. To which Ruskin said, 'I have lost the one pupil I had of real talent. She has decided to throw her life away teaching Arabs/'

11. Lilius Trotter is a wonderful example of seeking God's kingdom and his righteousness first.

12. But Jesus' sentence doesn't end there

13. He says 'and all things will be added to you

14. In the midst of prioritizing God, prioritizing our holiness, prioritizing seeing the lost saved

15. Everything we need, financial need will be taken care of by God

16. Illustration

- a. When you go on a business trip
- b. Why do they pay for your plane, your transportation, your food, your hotel?
- c. It's not so you can fool around but because you have a job to do
- d. That's why they are paying for all of it!

17. Likewise God has a mission for us to do

- a. We have a mission given to us by Jesus to make disciples
- b. The great commission
- c. That is our goal here on earth with the limited time we have
- d. To glorify God
- e. Any supplies needed to accomplish the mission
- f. Will be taken care of God!

18. Challenge

- a. This is one of the most powerful Bible verses to memorize
- b. Whenever you're worried about something especially financial

- c. Just remember 'seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you.'
- d. You can expense everything to God! It's on him!

Transition: Finally let's look at the final step at overcoming financial fears that is to

- 4. Take it one day at a time
 - a. V.34 – Jesus reminds not to worry about tomorrow (read full verse)
 - b. Implication and challenge
 - i. So that means don't even think about tomorrow, focus on today
 - ii. Focus on what's in front of you today
 - iii. Take it one day at a time
 - iv. Illustration
 - 1. They say the first step is always the hardest
 - 2. Do you know why?
 - 3. Because we worry about all the things that could happen in the future
 - 4. If this happens, then this will happen, then this will happen etc.
 - 5. IF I lose this job, then my family will starve, then we will go homeless, then my wife and family will leave me etc.
 - 6. It just paralyzes us with fear, you can't take any step forward!
 - 7. Have you guys seen the movie 300? It's about a historical event where 300 Spartans fend off a million Persians to buy enough time for the Greeks to prepare their armies
 - 8. Spurgeon commented on this and said,

9. 'Suppose Leonidas and his handful of men had gone out into the wide-open plain and attacked the Persians--why, they would have died at once, even though they might have fought like lions.'
Spurgeon continued by saying that Christians stand in the narrow pass of today. If they choose to battle every difficulty at once, they're sure to suffer defeat. But if they trust God and take their troubles one by one, they will find that their strength is sufficient.'
10. When we trust God with our needs, we can take it one day at a time. That's how we overcome financial fears by taking it one day at a time

Transition: However, if you are hearing this today and you are not a Christian. You might very well lose your job. Your wife and kids might very well leave you. You might even die in the next couple hours today. You have no idea. Nothing is guaranteed for you.

But the good news is (gospel)