



Matthew 6
25-34
New International Version

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^{Le}?

²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Shoot for Heaven, and you will get Earth Thrown in. Seek Earth and you will get neither. CS Lewis

"Christians are made, not born." Tertullian



Sermon Notes

Word CENTERED / Life CHANGING / World CONNECTED

3 Primary Wants in Life

1. We want to be **COMFORTABLE**
2. We want to be **APPRECIATED**
3. We want to find **MEANING**

4 Reasons why we live two opposite sets of Values

(1) We are **Deceived**

We honestly don't see the discrepancy between what we think and say and how we actually live... we believe in 'Close Enough'. **Conformity = Goodness** (after all everyone else is doing it.)

(2) We are **Distracted**

Busyness is THE narcotic for meaninglessness. **Activity = Purpose**

(3) We are **Afraid**

We long to live out of a great cause, mission, or adventure. We simply do not trust that God will supply our needs if we put our time, our reputation and our security (money) at risk. **Routine = Predictability = security**

(4) We have **FAILED**, repeatedly

Our sincere and honest efforts to put FTF in the past have lasted only a short time and ended with frustration and disillusionment with value.



Compromise or Commitment

In our Christian life both compromise and commitment are costly. When we falter and compromise, the consequences take their toll on us personally and often on our family and friends. Nevertheless, God graciously calls us to repentance and renewed commitment. In the last chapter Jacob bought a plot of land in Shechem among the Canaanites instead of going on to Bethel as God commanded. Now his compromise with a pagan community results in multiple tragedy. We see how God again rescues his servant from a dangerous situation and reaffirms his covenant promise.

Warming Up to God

What expectations do you place on this time with the Lord? (Do you feel pressure to "accomplish" something?) Allow yourself to just be with Jesus today.

Read Genesis 34—36

Discovering the Word

- What is Shechem's attitude toward Dinah (34:1-4)?
- In Genesis 35:1 God renews his call for Jacob to settle in Bethel. What is the cost of this commitment for Jacob and the members of his household (35:2-7)?
- What specific promises does God reaffirm to Jacob and to his descendants (35:9-13)?
- What new griefs come into Jacob's life (35:16-29)?
- What do the comments in 35:29 and 36:6-8 show about the relationship between Jacob and Esau?

Applying the Word

- In what way does this tragedy illustrate the dangers of spiritual compromise or disobedience?
- Have you become aware of any "foreign god" in your life, something which is taking the place of God? Explain.

- How can we, like Jacob, transform the pain of losing someone we love into confidence and courage for the future?

Responding in Prayer

Praise God for the remarkable example of his faithfulness to his chosen children through the life of Jacob.