

Seek First

Matthew 6:25-34



Matt 6:25-34 ESV

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

Matt 6:25-34 ESV

28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

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31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

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Matt 6:19-21, 24 ESV

19 "**Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth**, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 **but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ...

24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and money.**

Parable of the Sower: Thorny Ground

Luke 8:14 ESV

14 And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.

Parable of the Sower: Thorny Ground

Mark 4:19 ESV

19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

Thorns in our lives

- Worrying
- Being deceived by wealth
- Being distracted by pleasure/things of this world
- Stops our maturity
- Makes us unfruitful

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How much are you worth to God?

[Rom 5:8 NASB] 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

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2 Chronicles 7:14 ESV

14 if my people who are called by my name **humble** themselves, and **pray** and **seek** my face and **turn** from their wicked ways, **then** I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

PRAYER GUIDE

14 DAYS OF PRAYER IN THE AGE OF COVID-19



FOR THOSE WHO ARE AFRAID

The Bible calls us to trust the Lord and not be afraid because God is with us (Isaiah 41.10). Pray for those who are genuinely afraid and anxious that they encounter the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. (Philippians 4.7)

FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

There is a segment of our society that is at the frontlines of combating the virus and caring for the sick. Pray for doctors, nurses, public health officials, and EMT (to name a few). Pray that God would give them courage and wisdom in this season. (Deuteronomy 31.6)



FOR THE END OF THE VIRUS

We are not sure how the pandemic will come to an end but pray and ask God that he shorten the days of its impact. (Exodus 10.18)

PRAYER GUIDE

14 DAYS OF PRAYER IN THE AGE OF COVID-19



FOR WISE FOLLOWERS

While we may not understand or agree with some of the measures we're being asked to implement, pray that we act in compliance to what the experts are asking us to do in this season. (Romans 13.13)

FOR THE FOOD INSECURE

There is no food shortage but with so many of us hoarding, pray that those who are most vulnerable would get access to food. Pray that we not hoard but trust in God's daily provisions. (Matthew 6.11)



FOR OUR HOMES

Sadly, for many of our neighbors, the home is not a safe place. Being quarantined at home with an abusive spouse or parent can be devastating and traumatic. Pray for God's comfort and peace over our homes. (Isaiah 32.18)

FOR THE VULNERABLE

There is a certain segment of our society who are at a higher risk of death because of the virus. Pray for those with underlying health conditions and the elderly that they be spared. (Isaiah 1.17)



FOR THOSE WITH ADDICTIONS

In times of anxiety, it's far too easy to turn to addictions to numb the pain. Pray that people turn to Jesus's comfort and leadership. (1 Corinthians 10.13)



FOR THE ECONOMIC IMPACT

Many people will find themselves unemployed or losing significant business and income because of all the closures. Pray for wisdom and comfort in times of trouble and for God's provisions to be seen by many. (Job 38.41)



FOR WORKERS

Some of us have the ability to work from home, while others are needed to help make our local economies work (grocery stores, delivery drivers, etc.). Pray that God would keep them from being exposed to the virus and that they shed any fear of working in this season. (Psalm 23)

FOR THOSE WHO GET/ARE SICK

Pray for the healing of those who contract the virus. Pray that God would heal them and that God would numb the contagious aspects of the virus. (James 5.14)



FOR THE CHURCH

This is our opportunity to be the church that lives out our faith and is a witness to our community. Let us testify that God is good even when our circumstances aren't. Pray that we be kind and compassionate, not mean spirited and judgmental. (Acts 2.42)



FOR OUR LEADERS

Whether it be for our local, state and federal government leaders or church leaders. Pray that God would give them wisdom to lead and make important decisions that impact so many of us. (1 Timothy 2.1)



FOR GOD'S MERCY

What is God saying to us? Pray that we learn to hear his voice in this season. God often uses disruptive spaces to catch our attention and call us to a deeper intimacy with him, and that all would turn to him and his saving grace. (John 10.4)