

Bible Study Matthew 6:19-34

1. “**Casual**: Happening or done by chance without prior thought or planning.” Is it possible to be a “Casual Christian”? What would be the result?

This isn't about being 'calm and relaxed', but someone who just 'goes with the flow' without much thought or planning about following Jesus.

2. “**Righteousness**” means right standing before God. It can only come as God’s gift given through Jesus, the fulfiller of the Law (5:17-20). This righteousness makes a profound difference to the lives of Jesus’ followers (5:14-16 & 6:1 as they put it to work in real, tangible ways.
3. **Read Matt 6:19-24**. Each of these three paragraphs contain a choice for Jesus’ followers, a way for them to live and an alternative that is totally incompatible with it (notice in v24 Jesus says “you cannot” not ‘you *should* not’). Each helps explain the other two. List them below and discuss how they are connected?

How not to live

Store for yourself treasures on earth

Bad eyes, body in darkness

Serve Money (lit: “mammon”

ie material things)

How we are to live

Store up treasures in heaven

Good eyes, body full of light (cf 5:14)

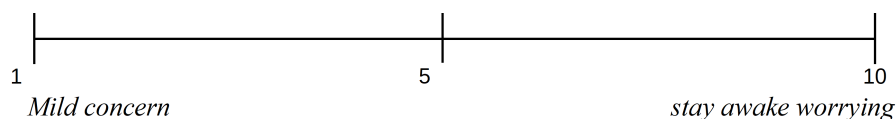
Serve God

We either live for life here and now, or we serve God and live for our eternity in heaven. We ‘look’ at Christ in the gospel, see his light, and are illuminated by it, or we remain in darkness. All people are servants (lit “slaves”) – the important thing is – whom do we serve?

4. Does v.21 strike you as unusual? Would you have thought it should be the other way around, ie ‘*where your heart is, there your treasure will be also*’? Discuss.

The good news here is that we are not captives of fallen hearts that suffer from poor or mixed motives. We can choose with ‘open eyes’ (minds shaped by the gospel) where to invest our money, resources, lives etc) and our hearts will follow.

5. **Read Matthew 6:25-34**. What are some typical things you worry about. On a scale of 1 – 10 rate your level of anxiety about those things.



6. Make a list of these reasons Jesus gives why we are not to worry. Discuss which one(s) stand out to you the most.

v25 Life is more important than food, body more important than clothes.

v26 God cares for birds – w are far more valuable, he will care for us too.

v27 Worrying achieves nothing! (only God controls the world & our future)

vv28-30 God ‘clothes’ the grass – he’ll clothe us!

v30b Worry is faithlessness

vv31-32 Worry implies God is not your heavenly Father, or that he is ignorant of your needs.

v34 Each day has enough trouble without worrying about what hasn’t yet happened!

7. There is a place for godly ‘concern’ for things (eg 2 Cor 11:28ff), and there is a medical condition that can produce anxiety and even panic. Jesus is not referring to either of these, but the kind of ‘worry’ that goes over and over things that *might* happen, usually in a fearful way, and in a way that produces no positive or practical outcomes (rather, it tends to prevent practical outcomes!)

8. What does it mean to “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness”? Think of practical examples for you. How does this help to counter the worrying we spoke of in Q5?

NB ‘Seek first’ means ‘seek foremost’, so we don’t make a list of priorities with God’s kingdom and righteousness as Number 1, it’s that in all of our priorities, God’s kingdom is the foremost consideration.

9. What are some concrete ways that you do or could ‘store up treasures for yourselves in heaven’?