

## Day One – Recap of Matthew 6:5-15

The Lord's Prayer is one of the most familiar passages in Scripture, and thus the powers-that-be at CCC have decided that it deserves an extra treatment. I agree with "their" assessment. Familiarity breeds contempt (as well as ignorance). When we've heard something a bajillion times over the years we tend to overlook it. Instead of actually thinking we simply travel down the same well-worn path in our brain because it has served us before. I wasn't particularly worried about us doing this when we were talking about Matthew's genealogy, because you had probably never even given it more than ten seconds of thought. But the Lord's Prayer...well I would say that it's likely that we could just gloss over the words because we hear it all the time. Don't be stupid and do this!

I know I've said this and I assume that Jared also covered it in the sermon, but it's critical that we don't turn Jesus' model prayer into some sort of magical incantation. It's a guide! It covers the most important themes, just like our prayers should. It expresses clear dependence on God and acknowledgement of His position, just like our prayers should. It subverts personal desires to the will of God, just like our prayers should. It is conscious of sin and expresses a need for forgiveness, just like our prayers should. It is also conscious of Satan's presence and influence in our lives, just like our prayers should be.

It's a really good prayer, in case you've missed that; it is, however, only a model. Our prayers must be oriented around these great truths, but they must also be driven by our own personal experiences and relationship with God.

(You should pray more, oh by the way.)

The Lord's Prayer is smack-dab in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount. Are we having fun yet?

## Day Two – Read 6:19-34

What two kinds of treasures are contrasted in verses 19-20?

What is the warning about the two kinds of eyes (illustration of the heart)?

You can choose to serve one of two masters. Name them.

## Day Three Read 6:19-34

Make a list of what you learn about the two kinds of treasures?

Treasures on earth

Treasures in heaven

Two kinds of eyes (hearts)?

Healthy eye

Bad eye

(related to generosity, liberality)

(related to grudging, stingy)

Can we have treasures both on earth and in heaven? Our bodies both in light and in darkness?

Can we serve two masters (think masters of slaves not employee/employer relationship)?

Explain why, or why not?

*John Calvin said, "Where riches hold the dominion of the heart, God has lost His authority."*

If time permits, read 1 Corinthians 10:31, Psalm 16:8, and Joshua 14:8.

## Day Four – Read 6:19-34

Verse 25 starts with "therefore" in the ESV. The NASB begins with "For this reason."

This refers back to the previous verse.

Therefore, why does Jesus command His followers *do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body?*”

[The word translated life is a comprehensive term that encompasses all of a person’s being—physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. Jesus is referring to life in its fullest possible sense. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*]

Define worry.

What is the opposite of worry?

Where is a Christian’s contentment found?

Read Philippians 4:11-12, 19; 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Psalm 24:1; and 1 Chronicles 29:11-12.

Challenge: One of God’s names in the Old Testament is Jehovah-Jireh. What does this mean? (Abraham ascribed this name to God-read Genesis 22:14)

## **Day Five – Read 6:25-34**

Verses 31 and 34 begin with “therefore?” Why is this word used in each of these verses?

What command is attached to the three uses of “therefore” in these verses?

Do you think it is significant that Jesus repeats this command three times?

Can worry extend your span of life? Our culture is obsessed with trying to lengthen life. Are exercise, good eating, and other common-sense practices right or wrong? Why, or why not?

You can worry yourself to death, but not to life. Dr. Charles Mayo, of the famous Mayo Clinic, wrote, "Worry affects the circulation, the heart, the glands and the whole nervous system. I have never met a man or known a man to die of overwork, but I have known a lot who died of worry."

If Jesus told those who had but one simple garment not worry about their clothing, what would He say to us?

Why do you think Jesus reminds them/us that the Gentiles (pagans) seek after things to eat, drink, and wear?

Do they, pagans, have a legitimate reason to worry? Why, or why not?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:32.

How do we *seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness*?

Give specific ways we do this.

**Read 2 Peter 3:11.**

Is making reasonable provisions for tomorrow sensible? Is worrying about tomorrow sensible or sinful?

There is enough trouble in each day without adding the distress of worry to it. God promises His grace for tomorrow and for every day thereafter and through eternity. But He does not give grace for tomorrow now. --Dr. John MacArthur

God does not give us dying grace on non-dying days--Dr. Jerry Creek

## **Day Six**

If you are looking to go a little bit deeper in your understanding of the text for this week, try one of these resources:

<http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/index.php?action=getBookSections&cid=1&source=1>

<http://www.evangelibrary.org.uk/members/com/nt/jcr/mt/mat-Index.html>

**Sermons Transcripts:**

Ligon Duncan - [http://www.fpcjackson.org/resources/sermons/matthew/matthew\\_vol\\_1-2/matthew\\_vol\\_1-2/index\\_Matthew\\_vol\\_1-2.html](http://www.fpcjackson.org/resources/sermons/matthew/matthew_vol_1-2/matthew_vol_1-2/index_Matthew_vol_1-2.html)

**Audio:**

John Piper - <http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByScripture/14/>

S. Lewis Johnson - [http://sljinstitute.net/sermons/new%20testament/gospels/matthew/matthew\\_master.html](http://sljinstitute.net/sermons/new%20testament/gospels/matthew/matthew_master.html)