

GOD & MONEY

DO NOT BE ANXIOUS

Matthew 6:25–34

RELATED SCRIPTURES

Psalm 33:11 | Ephesians 1:11-14 | Romans 8:28

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 4.26.26

SUMMARY

This section of scripture is from the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus is teaching his people about God's providence, that is, the means by which God governs the universe. His providence refers to God's *provision* for the future, his perfect plan that cannot fail, and which includes everyone and everything about us—nothing falls outside of it. This is why he teaches that all the worry in the world cannot change a single thing; worrying is a futile task. If the God of the universe provides for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, why would we worry about whether or not he will provide for his own children? Jesus' point is simple: our lives are in the hands of the Father, and because of that, our anxiety gains us nothing. Our Heavenly Father appointed the day of our birth, and he has appointed the day of our departure from this world as well; we should trust him with all the details in between. Also in this passage, Jesus provides us with the antidote to worry: we should take our worries to him—he knows our needs before we even ask. We do this not to inform him of our circumstances, but rather to acknowledge our trust and dependence upon him, and to affirm that all things work together for good. Then he instructs us to "seek first the kingdom of God." This is not an instruction to simply forget our concerns, rather, focus our concern and thoughts on His Father's kingdom—to frame them in the context of his kingdom. If we set our hearts on this, everything else will take care of itself.

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Matthew 6:25–34.

Most Christians understand from an academic standpoint that we should not worry because God is in control of everything . . . yet we worry anyway. Why—despite his promise to be with us, never forsake us, and always to provide for us—do we still find ourselves in circumstances where we worry?

How can seeking first the kingdom of God remove or mitigate worry? What do you suppose it means when Jesus says, "and all these things will be added to you"? What things is he talking about?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.