

Bible Study Questions 10TH NOLEMBER 2024

Matthew 6:25-34

Introduction

In this passage of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus continues his discussion on finance by encouraging us *not to worry*. **Discuss each other's top 3 causes of worry/anxiety today.**

Read & Reflect

Read **Matthew 6:25-34** at least twice using different versions of the Bibles. As you read or listen to the words, reflect and share on the following:

- What stands out or what do you notice?
- What questions are raised for you?
- What might the Holy Spirit be saying to you?

Questions

- The word used for "worry" in this passage is *mirimnao*, which can be translated as "worry" or "anxious" or "concerned about". One author describes it as "a disproportionate amount of caution, based on an inappropriate level of fear".
 Out of your top 3 worry items, what things might you be too cautious about because you are too fearful about the outcomes?
- Jesus' famous reference to the birds and the flowers would have brought to mind Isaiah 40:6-8:

"All people are like grass,

and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

- ⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass.
- ⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

This is about our *insignificance* compared to God. However, Jesus flips this in the Sermon on the Mount and teaches about our *significance*. Do you consider yourself significant enough in God's eyes, that he would provide for you as a Father?

- Reflect on times you have been radically dependent on God's provision. Consider finance, relationships, healing, guidance. What did you learn about God's character?
- In vv31-33 Jesus compares his disciples to the "nations/pagans". What does he say is the difference between those who know the Father, and those who do not?

Application

• The one condition Jesus invites us to here is to seek first his kingdom (God's rule and reign) and his righteousness (loving God and loving others). How might we do this today?

VERSES TO REFLECT ON

>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27

>You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

Isaiah 26:3

>Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

2 Thessalonians 3:16

>"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

<u>John 16:33</u>

>Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And **the God of peace** will be with you.

Philippians 4:9

>*In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.* Psalms 4:8

A POEM

The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be, I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds. I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief. I come into the presence of still water. And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light. For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.