

**Tuesday, May 24 - Read Matthew 6:22-23**

1. The metaphor Jesus uses here is, perhaps, the most difficult of all his teachings to understand and brings up many questions, such as:
  - A. In what way can an eye be a lamp?
  - B. How could an eye be a lamp that gives light *inside* the body?
  - C. Why does the body need light inside of it?
  - D. What makes one eye healthy (full of light) and another bad (full of darkness)?
  - E. How do you make sure you have an eye that is full of light, or is that outside of your control?
2. While these things are hard to understand, what Paul writes in II Corinthians 4:1-6 helps bring more clarity. After reading that passage, consider the following:
  - A. Where inside the body is light needed?
    - i. What difference does it make when there is light there?
  - B. What is this light?
    - i. How is knowledge like light?
  - C. How does light make its way to the heart?
    - i. What must the eye be able to “see” in order for that light to make its way into the heart?
    - ii. What is this “eye”? (What is it about unbelievers that has been “blinded”?)
3. Jesus seems to be making the point that only as we are able to see clearly (with our minds) the light of Christ, will our hearts and lives be filled with the light he brings.
  - A. Do you believe Jesus is simply pointing out the difference between believers and unbelievers here, or is he also encouraging us to take some kind of action?
    - i. How would this teaching help us even if all he is doing is describing the difference between believers and unbelievers?
    - ii. What would this help explain about unbelievers?
    - iii. What additional confidence might this give us?
  - B. If he were also encouraging us to take some kind of action, what action would that be?

KTFK: got that / see the / very confident / they know, / They are / they think / truth have / of what / but only / inner glow. / those who

Song: “Be Thou My Vision”

Prayer: “Lord, thank you for reminding us that it is only as we have been given eyes to see that we can know the truth and have our lives filled with the light of Christ. This is truly a gift from you; I have done nothing to deserve it. But I do want, O Lord, to make the most of it. Help me to be filled and guided by what you have revealed to me, that I might not squander this wonderful gift. Amen.”

**Wednesday, May 25 - Read Matthew 6:24**

1. Is Jesus telling us that we “cannot” serve both God and money simply in the sense that he doesn’t want us to, or is there something more to it?
2. Under what kinds of circumstances would serving two masters actually be possible?
3. What makes it impossible when those two masters are God and money?
4. Are there times when serving God and money at the same time might seem possible?
  - A. At what times, or under what circumstances, does it become clear that it is not?
5. Why do you think Jesus felt the need to teach these things?
  - A. Why are we so tempted to try to serve both God and money?

- B. What percentage of professing believers do you think are actually serving money rather than God?
  - C. Do you think you need to be rich in order to be serving money rather than God, or can you be serving money even when you don’t have much?
    - i. Why is this important to remember?
6. How do we know for sure which of them we are serving?
    - A. What are the signs that someone is serving God rather than money?
    - B. What are the signs that someone is serving money rather than God?

KTFK: and money / certain times / he embraces. / wills may / disagree man / shows whom / and places, / when God / overlap in / Though their

Song: “Give Thanks”

Prayer: “Lord, how easy it is for us to deceive ourselves in these things. Lead me, O Lord, into a situation soon where your will and the will of money are clearly opposite, that I might in that moment follow you and so be comforted that it is you indeed whom I love and serve and not the things of this world. Do not allow me to be self-deceived. Amen.”

**Thursday, May 26 - Read Matthew 6:25-33**

1. How often do you deal with anxiety in your life?
2. What kinds of things do you worry about?
3. How does worry affect you?
  - A. Would you say that it helps you focus on the kingdom of God or distracts you from doing that?
4. Why is it that worry and faith do not go together?
5. In what way does it make it harder not to worry about these things, given that, as Jesus says, “your heavenly Father knows that you need them all”?
  - A. How do we know when we are simply being responsible in the task of providing for our needs and the needs of our family and when we are worrying about these things?
  - B. What does Jesus’ example of the birds tell us about the “need” to save up a lot of money?
6. Why do you think Jesus tells us to both seek first the kingdom of God *and his righteousness*?
  - A. How might we be tempted to do one and not the other?
7. Read Psalm 37:25.
  - A. Have you ever been without your daily bread?
  - B. Do you think you ever will be?
  - C. How would you feel if your children were uncertain as to whether or not you would feed them or provide a place for them to live?

KTFK: so let / never let / their bread, / first, even / us seek / his children / said. / as he / He will / his kingdom / go without

Song: “My Jesus, I Love Thee”

Prayer: “Lord, forgive me for being anxious, for worrying about whether or not we will have the things we need when you have promised to provide them as I seek your kingdom first. I praise you, too, for all the times when you made good on that promise, often providing in ways that I never would have expected. How could I doubt you, my loving and faithful Father? I repent, and I ask for the grace to trust you more – to trust you as fully as you deserve to be trusted. Amen.”

**Friday, May 27 - Read Matthew 6:34**

1. In some ways, this last sentence serves as a bit of a corrective to what went before it. What kind of correction does it bring?
  - A. Does God's promise to provide all the material things we need as we seek his kingdom first mean that we will not have troubles to deal with?
    - i. What misunderstanding of the Christian life does this corrective address?
  - B. So, is God saying in some sense that while he doesn't want us to worry about tomorrow *now*, we will need to worry about tomorrow, *tomorrow*?
    - i. What kind of "worrying" might this be?
    - ii. How might it be different than the kind of worrying that he doesn't want us to do?
  - C. How does this corrective affirm for us that we, like Jesus, will have significant issues to deal with from day-to-day?
    - i. To what degree will these issues be connected to the struggles of our seeking first the kingdom from day-to-day?
2. What kinds of things might help us from day-to-day to be fully engaged with the "worries" or issues of today without falling prey to worry about tomorrow?

KTFK: we give / we worry / to pulling / ourselves wholeheartedly /  
Even though / not about / weeds. / each day's / tomorrow's needs,

Song: "Day By Day, and with Each Passing Moment"

Prayer: "Lord God, help me to daily find the perfect balance between being fully engaged in the issues that need my attention today without being caught up in worrying about tomorrow. May I then put faithfulness and responsibility ahead of strategy and "what ifs." Amen."

**Saturday, May 21**

Read the entire passage again and review the key thoughts from each day. Which did you find most important for you this week?

May 27 - Even though / we worry / not about / tomorrow's needs, / we give / ourselves wholeheartedly / to pulling / each day's / weeds.  
May 26 - He will / never let / his children / go without / their bread, / so let / us seek / his kingdom / first, even / as he / said.  
May 25 - Though their / wills may / overlap in / certain times / and places, / when God / and money / disagree / shows whom / he embraces.  
May 24 - They are / very confident / of what / they think / they know, / but only / those who / see the / truth / have / got that / inner glow.  
May 23 - Let us / live to / see the / world where / treasure will / be pure, / and not / affix our / hearts to / this old / world without / a cure.

**Family Worship 2022**  
**May 23-28**  
**Matthew 6:19-34**  
**Seeking First the Kingdom of God**

Kids and Parents: See if you can unscramble the daily  
**KTFK - Key Thought for Kids** (Answers on back page)

**Monday, May 23 - Read Matthes 6:19-21**

1. One of the points that Jesus seems to be making here is that laying up treasures for yourself on earth is foolish.
  - A. What two reasons does he give for this?
2. What kind of living is one forced to engage in when one is attempting to lay up treasures that are: 1) very temporary and 2) must be constantly protected from others?
3. If we are not laying up treasures on earth, will we necessarily be laying them up in heaven, or is there more to it than that?
  - A. What must we be doing in order to be laying up treasures in heaven?
  - B. What kinds of treasures can you lay up there?
4. What does Jesus' teaching here reveal to us about what heaven will be like?
5. What does verse 21 tell us about why it is so important for us to be laying up treasure in heaven?
  - A. To what degree would you say that your heart is currently "in heaven"?

KTFK: hearts to / live to / see the / be pure, / world without / world where / treasure will / and not / Let us / a cure. / this old / affix our

Song: "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

Prayer: "Lord, I don't want to be locked into the frantic life of storing up and tending to the treasures of the earth. Help me to live freely by living for the treasures that are secure and eternal. Give me, then, a focus on the things of the kingdom that I might live a life that is both free and productive, for your glory. Amen."