

Lesson 8—Practicing Righteousness (Part 2)

Introduction

After calling us to practice our righteousness for God’s glory, not human praise, Jesus now shifts to expose another spiritual trap: living for earthly treasure and being ruled by worry. In Matthew 6:19–34, He connects what we love with what we trust—and what we trust with how we live. If our hearts are tied to material wealth, we’ll be anxious, distracted, and torn between masters. But if our eyes are clear, and our treasure is in heaven, we’ll walk in freedom and focus.

Jesus doesn’t condemn wise stewardship or planning—but He does confront idolatry of possessions and obsession with provision. Through vivid examples—moths, birds, lilies, and kingdoms—He teaches us to stop striving and start seeking. God’s kingdom must come first. Everything else falls into place when we trust the Father to care for His children.

This lesson will help us:

- Examine where our treasure really is—and how it shapes our priorities
- Replace anxiety with trust in God’s care and provision
- Develop spiritual habits that reflect kingdom-first living in daily life

I. Matthew 6:19-24

A. Observation

1. What themes or key ideas are in this passage?

2. List at least one observation for each verse in the space below.
 - a. Matthew 6:19
 - b. Matthew 6:20
 - c. Matthew 6:21
 - d. Matthew 6:22
 - e. Matthew 6:23
 - f. Matthew 6:24

B. Interpretation

1. What reasons are we given for not storing up treasure on earth, but instead storing them in heaven? (List at least three)
 - a.

b.

c.

2. How is the eye the lamp of the body?
3. How are we affected by what we treasure?
4. What does it mean to store up treasures on earth? Should we never save or invest?
5. How do we store up treasures in heaven?
6. Why can't we serve two masters?
7. How are we affected by what we serve?
8. How would you summarize this section in one sentence?

C. Application

1. How do you feel about your focus on material things? Do you feel that it gets in the way of your relationship with God?
2. What can you do in your life to lay up more treasures in Heaven?
3. List at least two facts or commands stated or implied in this passage that are relevant to your own life:

- a.
 - b.
 - 4. What will you do this week to implement at least one of these facts or commands into your life?
 - 5. Suggested Practice – Treasure Audit: Take time as a family or individually to do a “Treasure Audit.” Look at where your time, energy, and money have gone over the last week. Ask honestly: How much of this is focused on God’s purposes? What small change could help you store up more treasure in heaven?
- D. Teach It
- 1. How would I explain this verse to my children or someone I mentor?
 - 2. How can I model this verse in my daily life?
 - 3. Conversation starter: “What are you investing your life in right now—and will it matter in eternity?”

II. Matthew 6:25-30

A. Observation

- 1. What themes or key ideas are in this passage?
- 2. What is the main point of this passage?
- 3. Write down at least one thing you noticed about each verse that shows how the verse contributes to the point the author is making?
 - a. Matthew 6:25
 - b. Matthew 6:26
 - c. Matthew 6:27
 - d. Matthew 6:28
 - e. Matthew 6:29

f. Matthew 6:30

B. Interpretation

1. How does worry prevent us from serving God?

2. What examples of things men worry about are given in the text that we should avoid?

3. What is the point of Jesus' illustrations from nature?
 - a. Birds of the air
 - b. Lilies of the field

4. What reasons does Jesus give that we should not worry? (List 3 or 4)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

5. How is worry a sign of little faith?

6. How would you summarize this section in one sentence?

C. Application

1. Are you worried about anything?

2. If yes, are your worries about what is in the past, what is in the present, or what is in the future? Which of these do you have any control over?

3. What areas of your life do you find it difficult to trust in God's help?

4. List at least two facts or commands stated or implied in this passage that are relevant to your own life:
 - a.

 - b.

5. What will you do this week to implement at least one of these facts or commands into your life?

6. Suggested Practice – Worry to Prayer Chart:
 - a. Create a two-column list:
 - 1) In the left column, write down your current worries (big or small).
 - 2) In the right column, write a short prayer of trust or a relevant Bible verse next to each worry (e.g., “God feeds the birds—He will feed me too.”).
 - b. Pray through the list daily this week. Then mark any worries God helps you overcome or gives you peace about. This turns worry into a spiritual discipline—and builds a visible testimony of faith.

D. Teach It

1. How could I explain this passage to someone struggling with anxiety?

2. How can I model this in my home, work, or ministry?

3. Conversation starter: “What would change in your life if you really believed God would provide what you need?”

III. Matthew 6:31-34

A. Observation

1. What themes or key ideas are in this passage?

2. What is the main point of this passage?

3. Write down at least one thing you noticed about each verse that shows how the verse contributes to the point the author is making?
 - a. Matthew 6:31
 - b. Matthew 6:32
 - c. Matthew 6:33
 - d. Matthew 6:34

B. Interpretation

1. How does worrying show we have worldly concerns?
2. What does Jesus tell us to seek “first” in our lives? What promise comes with this priority?
3. What one last reason does He give for not being anxious about the future? How is this helpful for you?
4. How would you summarize this section in one sentence?

C. Application

1. Do you feel that God is really the priority in your life?
2. In what ways can you be more devoted to seeking God’s kingdom and His righteousness?
3. List at least two facts or commands stated or implied in this passage that are relevant to your own life:
 - a.
 - b.
4. What will you do this week to implement at least one of these facts or commands into your life?

5. Suggested Practice – The “First Things First” Plan:
 - a. Choose one way to seek God’s kingdom first in the coming week. Here are some ideas:
 - 1) Begin each morning in prayer before checking your phone or jumping into tasks.
 - 2) Set aside a specific amount to give generously this week, even if it's small.
 - 3) Choose one area (work, school, family, finances) where you often worry—and write out a prayer that puts God's will above your own desires in that area.
 - b. At the end of the week, reflect: Did seeking God first change how I viewed my needs?

D. Teach It

1. How would you explain the importance of putting God first to another?

2. In what ways can you model these principles in your own life?

3. Conversation starter: “If you really put God’s kingdom first this week, what might you start—or stop—doing?”

Conclusion

You don’t have to be wealthy to serve money—and you don’t have to be poor to trust God. Jesus calls all of us to take a hard look at where our treasure lies, where our eyes are fixed, and who we’re really serving. Then He meets our worry with assurance: *Your Father knows what you need.*

Worry cannot change the future. It only robs us of peace today. But when we put God's kingdom first, our needs don’t disappear—they fall under the care of the One who clothes lilies and feeds sparrows.

This section of the Sermon on the Mount is not just a warning—it’s a promise. You don’t have to store up treasure here. You don’t have to live in fear. You don’t have to chase what the world chases. Instead, you can live with a free heart, generous hands, and a clear focus: *Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

Let this be the week we trust God more—with our finances, our future, and our everyday priorities.