

## **SOTM17 – Learning To Trust Your Father**

### **Review from SOTM16 – Where Your Treasure Is**

**Matthew 6:24-25** **No man can serve two masters**: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. **Ye cannot serve God and mammon.** (25) **Therefore** I say unto you, **Take no thought** for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

The word **THEREFORE** in Mat 6:25 is so important to understanding the rest of Matthew chapter six. **The number one thing that causes believers to spend their lives serving mammon instead of God is not greed ... it is FEAR OF LACK.** We are not to be greedy and spend our lives in the pursuit of money. But that is not what Jesus focuses on in this teaching because for most people, it is not greed that motivates them ... it is FEAR. Specifically ... it is FEAR OF LACK. "What shall we eat? What shall we drink? How will we have clothes to wear?"

This FEAR OF LACK was the same thing that Israel exhibited in the wilderness. It was one of the reasons they never conquered the promised land and it will keep you from living the abundant life also. In the rest of this chapter, Jesus focuses not so much on you being a soldier in the kingdom, as He does of you being a son being provided for by your heavenly Father.

Jesus is our example. He is the SERVING SON. He is the Son, the full heir, who willingly chose to live His life doing the will of the Father instead of his own will. "*Not my will but thine be done*" was His prayer ... and it must be ours also. The promise of Matthew chapter six is ... we are not like the world who had no provider. We have a provider ... and He is our FATHER.

Again, you do not have to be full time in the fivefold ministry to be provided for. You are to seek the kingdom where you are, or in whatever occupation where He leads you. He is your provider. If you lose your job, He has another one for you. If the economy crashes, He is still your provider and He will make a way for you. He provided water and manna in the wilderness and He can provide for you now, no matter the circumstances.

### **Today's Lesson**

**Matthew 6:25** **Therefore** I say unto you, **Take no thought** for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

**Therefore** ... to make sure you serve God and not mammon ... take no thought. The Greek word means take no "anxious, worried" thought. That means when you spend time worrying about having enough food to eat, water to drink, clothing to wear and so forth ... all that time you spent worrying ... you were serving mammon. You were acting just like the world. You were acting like those who have no heavenly Father. You were acting like those who have no provider. If those kinds of anxious, worried thoughts persist ... you will always serve mammon through fear of lack. This is the opposite "attitude" from the very first "be-attitude" which is ... blessed are the poor in spirit. Remember the soldier? He is totally dependent upon the military for his food, his water, his clothing, his weapon, his ammunition, and his assignment in the war.

Remember who you are, where you are from, and why you are here. Notice Jesus says, *"Is not **the** life more than meat, and the body than raiment?"* The Holy Spirit drew my attention to that little word "the" years ago. I checked to make sure Jesus actually used the word "the" in the original Greek. He did. (By the way, many other translations leave that word "the" out even though it is in the original Greek.) Jesus used that word for a purpose. He is not talking about biological life in general. He is talking about "the life" you are living as a child of God on earth. You are on temporary assignment here, just like my dad was on temporary assignment in Germany during World War Two. You are going to live forever. You have eternal life. Paul says our life on this planet is "but for a moment." We are all going to give an account for "the life" we lived while on assignment in the kingdom of God on planet earth. [Remember the lesson "Where Your Treasure Is, There Will Your Heart Be Also."]

Your life in the spirit is what matters. The body is not you ... it is your earth suit. It is your taxi on planet earth so your spirit can live here, exactly like astronauts wear space suits so they can live in the vacuum of outer space. The "mission" of the astronaut ... "the life" inside of the spacesuit is what matters ... not the spacesuit. What would you think of an astronaut who returns to earth, but while he was in outer space, he totally forgot the mission he had been assigned to accomplish? He forgot about doing those experiments, taking measurements, and photographing other planets. He didn't do any of that. So when asked what he did do in space he replied, *"Well, I was worried about running out of oxygen so I never did leave the spacecraft. I wanted to make sure my spacesuit looked good so I spent a lot of time cleaning it and polishing the helmet and making sure my spacesuit had everything it needed ... but I forgot all about why they sent me into space in the first place. I just focused on the needs of my spacesuit."*

When we focus on "what shall we eat, what shall we drink, and what shall we wear" ... we are being just that silly. We have forgotten about "THE LIFE" in the earth suit. Our life in the spirit, in the kingdom of God, is what matters. We have to trust the ONE who sent us. Remember WHO sent you:

**John 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.**

Can you imagine Jesus worrying about His needs being met? Then how can you worry about your needs being met?

### **Jesus Financial Teachings Are Based On Lessons From The Manna**

1. God is Faithful – Don't Worry About The Future  
Mat 6 – Consider the birds. Consider the fowls of the air.  
Luke 12:16 – The Rich Fool spent his life building bigger barns.
2. God Makes A Way Where There Is No Way  
John 2:1 – Jesus turns the water into wine.  
Mat 14:14-21 – Feeds 5,000 men with 5 loaves and 2 fishes.
3. God Wants Us To Share Our Abundance With The Poor  
Luke 16:19 – The rich man and Lazarus.  
Luke 12:33 – Sell that you have and give to the poor.

Jesus also demonstrates the lessons from the manna by His own life. The excess manna in Exodus was to be given to those who could not gather enough for themselves. The excess was to feed the hungry. Jesus did the same. In many towns they entered, Jesus would send Judas to give out of the bag to the poor.

**Jesus gives such simple illustrations that they do not need much comment.**

**Mat 6:26** Behold the fowls of the air: for **they sow not**, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. **Are ye not much better than they?**

1. They sow not ... every greedy prosperity preacher wishes Jesus had not said these words. The prosperity of birds is not based on their sowing ... and neither is yours. God feeds the birds because they are His birds. He feeds you because you are His child. If the Father feeds his pets, will He not more feed His children? Stop worrying! Stop it! And stop acting like you are a sharecropper instead of a son.
2. It is true, however, that the birds have to leave the nest and go find the food. The Father does not allow the birds to just stay in the nest their whole life while He

drops the next worm into their mouth. We are in the world and we are to have useful occupations in the world. For one thing ... that is where the sinners are. We are told the lazy man should not eat and that he who does not provide for his family is worse than an unbeliever. The key is TRUST instead of WORRY. If you lose one job, He already has another one ready for you.

**Mat 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?**

1. Trust me ... I have tried to increase my height. With all of my willpower, it can't be done. The point? Anxious thoughts produce nothing. Stop worrying.
2. Luke's account says increasing my height is a very "least" thing for God to do. But if worry and anxious thought cannot change that which is least, why take anxious thought for the rest? **Luke 12:25-26** And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? (26) **If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?**

**Mat 6:28-32** And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: (29) And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. (30) Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? (31) Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (32) **(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.**

1. Your heavenly Father is not stupid. He knows you have need of all these things, just like the military knew the soldiers in WWII needed rations, canteens of water, uniforms, weapons and ammo. The same way NASA knew its astronauts would need spacesuits, oxygen, water and food. Can you give your heavenly Father at least as much credit as the soldier gives the military and the astronaut gives NASA? Your heavenly Father knows what you need and He has promised to meet every need while you live "the life" on planet earth.
2. The difference between you and the Gentiles (meaning unbelievers) is ... they have no heavenly Father. They have no provider. From their birth to the grave, they have to give their lives to worrying about what shall we eat, what shall we drink, and what shall we wear. Be not like them. Don't spend your life focused on the earth suit.

**Matthew 6:33-34** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (34) Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto

**the day *is* the evil thereof.**

We are back to the first beatitude ... being poor in spirit, like a soldier on assignment in a foreign land, who is totally dependent upon the military for everything he will need. He needs to focus on his assignment, not spend his time worrying about whether or not his needs will be met. The promise of Jesus is ... if you put the kingdom of God first ... and if you put living according to the righteousness nature He gave you first ... ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU.

**THE SOLDIER TRUSTS THE ARMY  
THE ASTRONAUT TRUSTS NASA  
CHILDREN OF GOD TRUST THEIR FATHER**

**WE MUST BE ABOUT OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS**