

**ILIFE PART FOUR
WORRY FREE!
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MATTHEW 6:19-34
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Jesus has a better life to offer. The Sermon on the Mount is not a set of rules to master and obey as much as an invitation to enter into a new kind of life. In our passage today Jesus invites us into the “worry-free” lifestyle that results from kingdom thinking instead of “worldly” thinking.

Matthew 6:25-34 almost reads like lyric poetry.

THE SERMON HAS FOUR “THEREFORES.” WHAT ARE THEY THERE FOR?

As a result of living the life of the kingdom some special things happen:

A new way of loving, deepening and cultivating relationships (Matthew 5:23)

The “worry-free life” we all long for (Matthew 6:25-34)

The wisdom of choosing to enter into the kingdom lifestyle (Matthew 7:24)

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT OUTLINES A BETTER WAY OF LIFE.

Matthew 5:20: “For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Who can ever measure up to the rule-keeping lives of the Pharisees? No one can. So don’t try. This is not the way to live the life Jesus invites us to live.

Kingdom living understands that rules do not define spirituality. Jesus is not laying out new rules for living. He is giving us truth about how life is really designed by God to work.

Following Jesus is not about behavioral modification and image management. We can trust that God can transform our lives in ways we can’t change them ourselves.

“Will I live by worldly thinking and struggle with anxious striving, or will I move into kingdom thinking and trust His love?”

JESUS “PUTS ALL THE CARDS ON THE TABLE” BY DEMANDING THAT WE CHOOSE TO FOLLOW GOD OR MONEY—THERE ARE NO OTHER CHOICES (Matthew 6:19-24).

The worry-free life does not come as result of will power, or relaxing on the beach or prayer—the worry-free life results from moving our earthly assets into the safety of the eternal bank where we don’t have to worry about them.

If we value Mammon (“money”) our fate is fixed. Our fate is anxiety, worry and frustration.

What might storing treasures in heaven look like?

Investing money in kingdom evangelism to secure “friends” in Heaven

Increasing the number of stars in our “crowns” by successful personal evangelism

Living profitably for the Kingdom of God on earth which results in securing gold, silver and precious stones for our lives in Heaven instead of living a rather wasted life which results in wood, hay and stubble

Giving to the poor is lending to God

JESUS INVITES US TO ENJOY THE WORRY-FREE LIFE (Matthew 6: 25-34).

Let's talk about worry.

Both “anxious” and “worry” have reference to strangling or being choked.

Stop being so hard on worry warts.

If life is not about food, clothes, etc, what is it about? Life is about finding our places in the kingdom.

How many birds are you worth?

The little flowers on the hillside exhibit a radiance that no “fixed up” human being can ever rival. Lilies don't put on makeup, they just open up to the sun. As we open up to the Son, He puts His beauty into us.

Physical attractiveness has no bearing on God's perspective: “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness...” (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).

“Little faith” is a word Jesus coined as a nickname to encourage us in our spiritual journeys.

The “pagans” don't know the Father and thus have no track record of His care. Since we have a track record of God's care in the past, we are better able to trust in his care for our future.

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” is part of the golden thread through the Sermon that begins in Matthew 5:45 and runs through its entire length.

Jesus concluded this section of His discourse with a touch of humor: “If you just have to worry, always start tomorrow.”

What might a worry-free life look like (John 10:10)?