

**ILIFE PART FOUR  
WORRY FREE!  
PASTOR ROGER BARRIER  
MATTHEW 6:19-34  
2/24/08  
S-1746**

● **SLIDE:** Julie and I spent the last three weeks overseas teaching and encouraging missionaries throughout central Asia and the Middle East. We wish you were there.

Thanks for your prayers.

American bubble: world map with US in bubble: no bubble over Nazareth.  
Understand Biblical understanding of life better when we get out of the bubble.

I want you to go. Youth trip to AZE.  
College trip to KYG.

**People are alike in every culture.**

Cut and bleed.

Worry about raising children, teenagers, next meal, getting a good job, finding meaning to life.

Broken hearted at the devastation that wars, bombs, selfish leaders and terrorists are doing to their lives and to their country.

You are stressed and worried about money, food, making budget, having enough, losing your job—and Jesus invites you to a new way to live—without worry.

The Sermon on the Mount is an invitation from Jesus into a new way of living—His life appeals to people in all cultures—in all times—in all places.

READ BEATITUDES: this is the life we can have.

● **SLIDE:** ILIFE: Jesus invites us into the “worry-free” lifestyle that results from entering into the kingdom.

● **SLIDE: MATTHEW 6:25:** "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?"

● **SLIDE: MATTHEW 6:26-27:** Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

● **SLIDE: MATTHEW 6:28-30:** "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

● **SLIDE: MATTHEW 6:31-34:** So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his

righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

● **SLIDE: Scene right out of Disneyland.** This reads like the opening of a Disney fairy tale. The little birds are chirping, the flowers are basking in the sun. And you expect 7 dwarfs to come whistling down the road.

How many of you want that life?

● **SLIDE: THE SERMON HAS FOUR “THEREFORES.”** WHAT ARE THEY THERE FOR?

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

● **SLIDE: Matthew 5:23: A new way of loving, deepening and cultivating relationships**

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

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

● **SLIDE: 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).**

● **SLIDE: MATTHEW 6:19-20: 19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

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.

When possessions in heaven, we don't worry about our resources on earth.

● **SLIDE: What might storing treasures in heaven look like?**

● **SLIDE: Investing money in kingdom evangelism to secure “friends” in Heaven**

Global outreach  
Casas

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

Halftime by Bob Buford

Giving to the poor is lending to God  
AZE keep people in categories

Money to each beggar  
No legs, no arms—cup in mouth

Craig: “Give to the Little People.”

● **SLIDE:** MATTHEW 6:24: "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

At wedding: Fiancé says to you, “I love you, but I love another girl, also. Would it be OK if I spend half my time with you and half with her?”

No, you have to make a choice.

● **SLIDE:** Burberry: \$1400 purse: you should see the one with 2 pockets.

● **SLIDE:** Drive to poor house in Mercedes

● **SLIDE:** America is worshipping at the feet of Mammon.

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

Jesus is inviting us to a better way of living.

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

● **SLIDE:** Matthew 6:25: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?"

Things and events have us by the throat and seem to be cutting off our life.

● **SLIDE:** Worry warts:

Mom worrying and lightning hitting house after 75 years of worry.

Stop being so hard on worry warts:

Worry module: How the brain works with worry and anxiety.

Brain has 3 levels

Snake and blind

“Alert system” anxiety disorder and panic attacks

Jump at snake

Blind eye unconscious

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

● **SLIDE:** Matthew 6:26: Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

What is most relevant about birds is that they do not “lay up treasures on earth.” They receive from their world, under God, daily food for daily needs.

How many Birds are you worth?

Have you ever tried to price someone in terms of birds?

Perhaps five sparrows, a hawk, two cockatoos, and a bald eagle.  
2 vultures

Doesn't even come close.

Bronwyn's suitcase: Daughter and two goats?  
Too much, How about daughter and one goat!

Children are called the “greatest in the kingdom.”

Matthew 18:2-4: 2 He called a little child and had him stand among them. 3 And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Children have no capacity to store goods on their own. They cannot live independently of others. Children are totally dependent upon others for their feeding.

● **SLIDE: Matthew 6:27: Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?**

Can't extend it but can shorten it. 70 years into 65.

Karl Mendenhall and brother both diagnosed with cancer at age 62.

● **SLIDE: Matthew 6:28-30: "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"**

If you look closely at the little flowers and then at the strained ladies and floppy gentlemen who come out to opening night and award dinners in our centers of power and culture, you can only feel sorry for the people. They can't even begin to compete.

Appearance most important

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.

● **SLIDE: Nabilla—not the most radiant physical beauty, is she?**

Secret police called her in. You are in charge of this conversation. Relax guys-we know why we're here. Let's do it.

The lead guy apologized. I'm sorry, It's my first time to interrogate a Christian. "That's okay. I'll help you." Basic questions.

Went straight to gospel. Why have you become a Christian. I discovered that I was a sinner. Went to Genesis. I'm going to tell you what God's heart is for mankind, before there was any religion. We're not fight about religion.

Let me tell you what Christ did for me. I hated myself. I hated Tunisia. I hated the police.

After I received Jesus He showed me my worth. He gave me a love for my country. He even gave me a love for you, because inside your uniform is a man with needs, fears and questions.

A man Jesus is waiting to love. The police chief said "Thank you. I have never heard anybody talk about God this way."

● **SLIDE: Matthew 6:30: O you of little faith?**

● **SLIDE: Jesus invented the word "little faiths" (oligopistol).** It seems to be a nickname he invented as a way of gently chiding this apprentices for their lack of confidence in God and in himself.

Nickname

Inflection—not scolding; smiling, encouraging, with delight

"Baby faith, you've got the cutest little baby faith!"

● **SLIDE: Iranian woman thanking Julie for last year's teaching** on Job and Suffering. "I was able to survive another year. I came this year not certain if I could make it this next year."

"What is going to be so hard about next year?"

She just looked at Julie with the saddest look—after the teaching on spiritual growth, I think I can make it another year.

● **SLIDE: Matthew 6:31: So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.**

Pagans don't know the father so have no track record of his care. Therefore their lives are filled with corresponding anxiety and fear and depression about how they look and fare.

We have a track record.

We who know and have experienced Jesus and his father have confidence in the provision he has made for us and the confidence has been confirmed by experience.

● **SLIDE: Matthew 6:33: But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

Jesus concluded this section of His discourse with a touch of humor.

● **SLIDE: Matthew 6:34: Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.**

"If you just have to worry, always start tomorrow."

● **SLIDE: WHAT MIGHT A WORRY-FREE LIFE LOOK LIKE (JOHN 10:10)?**

What does living in the present look like.

Line graph of abundant living in the present.

Brother Lawrence: washing the dishes practicing the presence of God

**GULLEY p. 35 Paper Route**