



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

Kingdom Principles – Part 4

Matthew 6:19-34

Message #19 of 80 – S1049

Sermon given on June 11, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Kingdom Principles – Part 4

Matthew 6:19-34

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 6**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- We are in the section of the gospel of Matthew referred to as the Sermon on the Mount.
- In this sermon, Jesus gives us a series short statements describing the principles that those who are a part of His kingdom should seek to practice.
- So far, we have looked at ten principles.
- We get two more this morning.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give us ears to hear. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **Kingdom Principles – Part 4**
- We live in a materialistic world.
- We all have things that are valuable to us.
- Some of the things might have material value, like jewelry.
- Other things are valuable for sentimental reasons, like something given to by a parent or grandparent.
- In the next principle we are going to look at, Jesus is going to talk to about the things we treasure.

Kingdom Principle #11 – Store up treasures in heaven.

- **Matthew 6:19**
- Jesus begins with a warning about collecting things in this world.
- “You can't take it with you!” The old miser and his minister, doctor, and lawyer.
- In fact, you can't take anything from this life into the next life.
- And Jesus warns us against putting too much value on the things we can't take with us to heaven.
- ‘moth and rust destroy’ – very few things are permanent in this life.

- If you have ever had water damage in your house or a fire, then you know that those things that are valuable can be destroyed or made useless in a flash.
- ‘thieves come in and steal’ – The world is not a safe place.
- Our stuff can be stolen. I pray you never have to experience that.
- Then Jesus says something that probably generates more questions than it answers.

- **Matthew 6:20**

- What is a treasure in heaven and how do I store them there?
- Notice that it says, ‘Lay up for yourselves...’
- This means that there are things we can do on this earth that will follow us to heaven and be rewarded **Matthew 16:27**.

For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

- Part of growing in our faith is learning what those things are.
- The Kingdom Principles are a good starting point.
- For example, Principle #7 is love everyone.
- As I learn how to love other people in the way God created me to love them and then do it, I am storing up a treasure in heaven.
- The key is doing it for the right reason, not for the treasure, but because it glorifies God and blesses others.
- The fact that I will be rewarded in heaven encourages me when I am struggling to do it when it is hard.
- Nowhere does the Bible explain what those treasures are, but who cares – they are treasures in heaven.
- Jesus then explains why this is a big deal.

- **Matthew 6:21**

- The reason Jesus doesn’t want us to store up treasures on earth is because they will distract us from the good works that will store up treasures in heaven.
- And in the end, we can’t take those earthly treasures with us to heaven.
- If everything you value is in this world, then your heart is in this world.
- As Christ-followers, we are sojourners through this world.

- This world is not our home.
- We have a home in heaven that is perfect and eternal.
- That is where our heart should be.
- And while we wait, we ought to be furnishing it with treasures we will enjoy forever through good works done by faith in Christ for God's glory, the blessing of others and the growing of faith.
- Jesus then addresses how we look at the things of this world.
- **Matthew 6:22-23**
- How you look at things determines the quality of your life.
- How we look at things is controlled by our knowledge of God and His Word and our yielding of our will to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- What is your eye focused on, the things of this world or on the will of God?
- It is very important for us to be regularly checking our spiritual eyesight.
- We do that in God's Word, prayer, communing with God and His people.
- Jesus wraps up this thought with a familiar verse.
- **Matthew 6:24**
- Jesus is not calling us to forsake the materialistic world.
- As Christ-followers we consider the material world as something God created and calls us to care for.
- Our attitude toward the material world should be as caretakers for God.
- Nothing in the material world belongs to us, not even ourselves – it is all God's.
- That leads to the next principle.
- **Kingdom Principle #12 – Do not worry.**
- **Matthew 6:25**
- 'worry' occurs six times in verses 25 to 34.
- It is clear from this that worry in the heart of a believer is out of place.
- Worry and fear are similar – they eat away at the foundations of our faith.
- And the only solution to them is an increase of faith.

- To worry is to feel or believe that God is not able to or is not going to take care of you in some way.
- The apostle Paul also talks about worry and suggests what we should do when we find ourselves worrying or becoming anxious

Philippians 4:6-7.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- We don't have to worry because God has promised to care for us **1 Peter 5:6-7.**

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- Three realities of worry:
- **Worry is irreverent** – it is a failure to place our trust fully in God for the things we cannot control, but He can.
- **Worry is irrelevant** – it cannot change anything either for the good or for the bad.
- **Worry is irresponsible** – it accomplishes nothing, and it is a waste of energy that could be used to grow God's kingdom.
- Jesus uses a few illustrations to make His point.
- **Matthew 6:26-30**
- Jesus makes worrying a problem of faith.
- If we are worrying, it is because there is something that we are not trusting God for.
- You probably trust God for a lot of things, but in that thing you are worrying about, your trust is weak.
- **Matthew 6:31-32**
- 'Gentiles' = nonbelievers.
- They have to worry about these things because they do not have a heavenly Father who has committed Himself to caring for them.
- When our children were small, they never worried about getting enough food to eat.
- They didn't go to bed worried about whether there would be food the next day.
- They trusted us to provide them with what they needed.

- Even when times were hard for us, they always had food to eat.
- They may not have had the toys they wanted, but they never had to worry about the basic necessities of life.
- Unbelievers don't have that. They are like orphans on the street.
- Because they have rejected God as their Father, they must meet all their own needs, including the impossible ones.
- When we worry, we act like orphaned unbelievers.
- Jesus gives us the answer to worry.
- **Matthew 6:33-34**
- The kingdom of God is wherever God is King.
- This begins first within our own heart.
- If God is King of our lives, then we can place our trust in Him to care for us, provide for us, and protect us.
- If God is King of your life, He has obligated Himself to do those things.
- Once God is King of our lives, we can then turn our attention to expanding His kingdom to those around us.
- We begin with our closest relationships and expand outward to the limit of the range of influence God has given us.
- Not only should we replace worrying with seeking God's kingdom, but we must also seek God's righteousness.
- God's righteousness is that which aligns with God's Word, will, and ways.
- It means we are seeking to feel, think, and do what is right in God's eyes.
- For example, when we catch ourselves worrying, we must ask ourselves if that is right. Is it right to worry?
- Based on what we are studying, the answer seems to be no.
- To seek God's righteousness in that moment, I must confess to God that worrying is not right and ask God to help me think differently about whatever I am worrying about.
- I must ask myself, 'What would I feel, think, and do if I was trusting God in this thing?'

- And then I must seek to change the way I am thinking, feeling, or the things I am doing.
- If Jesus tells us not to worry and then tells us to do something in place of worrying it is because it is possible through faith to do so.
- Jesus would not tell us to do something if it wasn't possible for us to do it through faith and in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 'these things shall be added to you' – What are the 'these things?'
- If we are truly seeking God's kingdom and His righteousness we do not need an answer to that question.
- God is faithful to take care of us.
- He has promised to add something to your life if you seek His kingdom and His righteousness.
- God is good, holy, pure, loving, kind, gracious, and merciful.
- Anything He adds to your life is going to come from those realities.
- Your part is to seek God and His righteousness and then trust God to add something to your life that will bless you abundantly.
- Trusting God includes not concerning ourselves with how He is going to bless us.
- **Kingdom Principle #11 – Store up treasures in heaven.**
- **Kingdom Principle #12 – Do not worry.**
- These principles are about keeping our eyes on God and trusting for every part of our life.
- Neither are something we can master in a day, but every day ought to draw us closer to doing them as we choose to walk closer to Jesus.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us to do that.
- Let's pray!