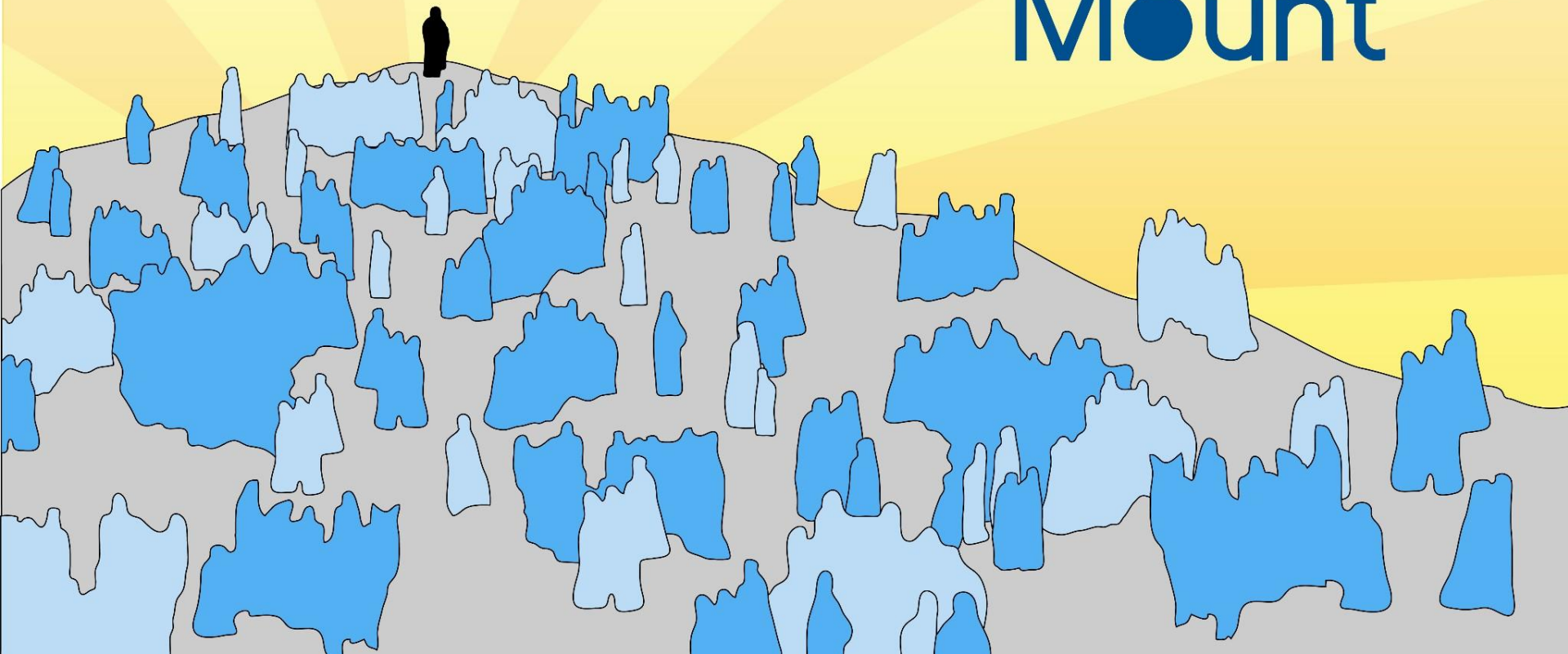


# The Sermon on The Mount



# Sermon On The Mount Series

The Sermon is Jesus' vision statement for His kingdom, and what He expects of His disciples.

- Last week: Treasures on earth vs. heavenly treasures. This week anxiety and worry
- These Kingdom characteristics should make us **STAND OUT**
- Kingdom distinction prevents Kingdom extinction!

## Matthew 6:25-34 ESV

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? (26) Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? (27) And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

## Matthew 6:25-34 ESV

(28) And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, (29) yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. (30) But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? (31) Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

## Matthew 6:25-34 ESV

(32) For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. (33) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (34) "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

# Do Not Be Anxious

Jesus makes His point: Matthew 6:25 ESV

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

- Continuation of Jesus addressing materialism. In the previous passage He deals with money directly, now He deals with the stuff we use money to get.



# Do Not Be Anxious

- “Do not be anxious about your life” = this is a command, but it is also a creative prophetic word if you receive it as one. (Molten Meditation ex.)
- Food, drink and clothing are pretty basic.
- If we are not to worry about these necessities how much more should we NOT worry about lesser things of life.
- The main point: “Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”

# Do Not Be Anxious

- Jesus is asking what we value more: life, or the food we eat to sustain it; our body, or the clothing we wear to cover and decorate it?
- You could hardly find a more pertinent topic for our day! Yet it was pertinent in Jesus' day as well. Worry & materialism is a human condition - not restricted to any particular people or time.
- Because we live in a wealthy society, we have more opportunity to be distracted from what is really important, by all of the "stuff" of life.



# Do Not Be Anxious

- LAB: “Worry may 1) damage your health, 2) cause the object of your worry to consume your thoughts, 3) disrupt your productivity, 4) negatively affect the way you treat others, and 5) reduce your ability to trust in God. How many ill effects of worry are you experiencing? Here is the difference between worry and genuine concern -- worry immobilizes, but concern moves you to action.”

# Three Illustrations

#1: “Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

- France: “What is prohibited is worry, not work. Even the birds have to spend a lot of energy in hunting or searching for their food, but the point is that it is there to be found. And it is provided by “your heavenly Father”; a true understanding of that phrase is the ultimate antidote to anxiety.”

# Three Illustrations

#2 “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”

- The word translated “span of life” can also be translated “height.” But a cubit is 18” and is unlikely Jesus meant it that way.
- “Anxiety in any case achieves nothing. It cannot add even a little time to our life-span. (Indeed it may shorten it!).” France

# Three Illustrations

#3 “Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, (29) yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

- Jesus compares the glory of Solomon, who was the wealthiest and grandest of all the Hebrew kings as not comparing to even the simplest of wildflowers

# Jesus' questions

- Jesus is trying to get his audience to think.
- He is not only challenging them about what they value, He is challenging them to reconsider what the Father values!
- Concerning the feeding of the birds he asks, “Are you not of more value than they?”
- And of the flowers, “will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”

# Jesus' questions

- You cannot overcome anxiety by saying, don't be anxious.
- Jesus is doing much more than issuing a command, He's challenging our value system.
- How we value things, and how we understand God's valuing of us.
- He drives the issue of materialism and worry to its root = our relationship with our heavenly Father.



# Jesus' questions

(31-32) Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

- Worries are answered with “your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.”
- Turning our attention, and mental energy, away from the needs in our life - and to the Provider, we find freedom from anxiety and fear.

# Seek First...

33) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- The climax of this passage.
- Gentiles (people disconnected from relationship with the Father) seek material things
- Disciples are to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” knowing that in doing so all the other things will be added.

# Seek First...

- “First”: foremost, first in time or place, in any succession of things or persons
- Pursuit of the Kingdom of God and His righteousness **MUST** precede every other issue or concern in our lives.
- The solution to anxiety is to turn our attention to the correct priorities in life - the Kingdom and righteousness of God
- *Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace*

# Seek First...

- Seek: “to seek in order to find” by thinking, meditating, reasoning, to enquire into; to aim at, strive after; require, demand
- Jesus is talking about ACTIVE PURSUIT, not passive.
- Pursuit with an expectation that our heavenly Father will provide.
- Anxiety is like hunger. You can’t just say, “don’t be hungry.”

# Seek First...

- You must be fed. The food that removes anxiety is not material, there is always someone with more than you have, or something else you will want - material things will never quench that hunger.
- What quenches anxiety is relationship with the Father. If you come into “sonship” with the Provider - then your relationship with every other “thing” changes.
- That is the key to overcoming worry.

# Tomorrow

(34) "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

- Jesus ends this section with a final thing that causes us to worry = tomorrow.
- Almost seems like an afterthought, but I believe that there is a divine authority that rests upon this verse.
- Just as we are to trust in our heavenly Father for the needs of today, we must trust our tomorrow to Him as well.



# Tomorrow

- If we cannot manage the basic needs of today, what makes us think that we can try to tackle tomorrow's problems? Jesus gives us an assurance that this too is in our Father's capable hands.





