

December 14, 2025

“Our Heavenly Father”
Lesson 2

Matthew 6:24-34

Intro

Today’s study passage comes from the Sermon on the Mount, which is found in chapters 5-7. Matthew’s gospel arranges material in a topical rather than a chronological order. The is the case with the Sermon, which occurs early in Matthew’s writing, but actually took place in the first half of the second year of Jesus’ ministry. Prior to our verses, Matthew has already in chapter 6 reported what Jesus said about hypocrisy, prayer, fasting, and priorities. Today’s lesson deals with living a life which is dependent on a loving heavenly Father to provide all of our needs.

Read Matthew 6:24-34

1. vs. 24: The word “master” here carries a strong implication

This is one person who has overall charge of a group or a mission
No group functions at its best if there are two people in charge together
Orchestras have one *maestro* (master) to lead; two would be confusing
Trying to live life by following two different masters is equally confusing
This leads to problems, choosing who or what gets attention at the moment
Jesus says the choice is to *serve* God over serving money
No one can give equal attention and service to both God and money
One of the 10 Commandments is not to covet, to desire things over God

2. vs. 25: “Do not worry” doesn’t mean “don’t plan and take care of details”

We are to do what we can to provide for ourselves and others
But those plans and concerns should not lead us to worry or be anxious
This makes sense, but it’s not always easy to do
We are not to let our planning take our attention away from God
Jesus is encouraging his listeners (and us!) to see the big picture
There is more to life than food and clothing

3. vs. 26: Jesus here uses what is called a “letter-to-greater” argument

His listeners were familiar with birds
Humans do work: they sow, they reap, they store up
Birds don’t do these things
If God takes care of the birds, won’t he also care for people made in His image?
This is one of many times Jesus refers to God as a Heavenly Father
He is the head of the family, the one who takes care of all the members of the family
This is a concept Jesus’ Jewish listeners would readily understand
Jesus’ words here remind His audience not to worry about what they need
The Father always provides for His family

4. vs. 27: This is a rhetorical question, one asked which doesn't need or expect an answer
The purpose of these questions is to show that the thing being discussed is obvious
A good paraphrase of this question today would be:
 Why worry about things that you cannot control?
Worry consumes time, and can lead to serious issues that actually decrease one's life
5. vs. 28-29: Jesus uses and lesser-to-greater comparison here involving flowers
Flowers don't do anything beyond grow; God has created them and cares for them
They don't "labor or spin"
Solomon's wealth and the glory of his kingdom were well-known, then and in history
The Queen of Sheba said that his kingdom was far greater than she'd even been told
But Jesus makes another comparison to show God's care and the futility of worry
The flowers God made, that don't labor, are more beautiful than Solomon at his finest
The God who takes such great care of flowers is the same God who cares for us
6. vs. 30: The life expectancy of most grasses and plants is generally much shorter than that of humans
This is especially true when thinking that vegetation gets harvested for various uses
Jesus makes another comparison here
If the grasses are short-lived but God still cares for them, won't He do the same for people?
Flowers are also His creation, but they aren't made in His image
 People are made in His image with the ability to exercise faith
God cares for His people "much more" than He cares for things which cannot show faith
7. vs. 31-32: Jesus says that God knows people need food and drink and clothing to survive
But He reminds His audience that the pagans (Gentiles) also need these things
Their methods to getting them include sacrificing to non-gods in hopes of blessings
Jesus reminds them not to worry, not to be overly concerned
God's people are to be different than the pagans; they are to have a different mindset
 God knows what His family needs, and He will provide it
This doesn't mean that we are to sit at home and wait for God to deliver to our door
We are to be diligent (Heb. 6:11-12) and known for honest work (2 Thess. 3:7-10)
8. vs. 33a: Up to now Jesus has been telling the people what *not* to do
Don't worry, don't be like the Gentiles, etc
Now He switches to the positive—Do this!
Their first priority is to seek God and His kingdom
Jesus taught much about the kingdom of God
 He taught people to pray "Your kingdom come"
 He told Pilate His kingdom was "not of this earth"; it was a spiritual kingdom
 He told people to pray, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done"
To seek God's kingdom is to make His will the most important priority in our lives
Seeking God's righteousness is seeking what He wants in the world
 To be salt and light so we bring something of heaven into this world
If Jesus phrased this in question form, He might have said:
 "What is your greatest priority: God's kingdom or the things of this world?"

9. vs. 33b: If one's priority are aligned with God, they can be assured of God's care
 "All these things (food, drink, clothing) will be given to you as well"
 Devoting ourselves to God's kingdom prevents these concerns from dominating
 There have been many Christians who have died of dehydration or starvation
 They didn't lack faith, just because this happened
 One way God provides for His people is through the generosity of others
 We ought to be God's hands and feet on earth to those in need
 For fellow believers, this is how God is meeting their needs
 For non-believers, this is way to show God loves them
10. vs. 34: This section finishes with a conclusion and an observation
 Jesus says "Therefore"—putting all the previous thoughts together
 Don't worry about tomorrow—don't borrow trouble, in other words
 Let tomorrow happen tomorrow; live in today
 He also observes, "Each day has enough trouble of its own"
 If we fear what will happen in the future, we get overly earth-centered
 Again, we cannot be servants of two "masters"
 Each day has the potential to present us with challenges and difficulties
 We are therefore called to devote ourselves to seeking God and His kingdom
 Paul says to "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" (Col. 3:2)

Application: All followers of Jesus have a sphere of influence, which includes some people to whom God seems far away. This distance might feel even greater at Christmas time. We can be helpful in demonstrating the difference that living in the trust of a loving heavenly Father can make. The change in their minds and hearts will likely not occur quickly. But with our patient and encouraging example, and with prayer, we can help them see how much God really does love them. Show someone around you a simple act of kindness to show them this truth.

Prayer: Father God, thank You for the privilege of knowing You as our heavenly Father. May we never take this relationship for granted. Help us to help others see You by showing them the difference You have made in our lives, both here and now, and for eternity. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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