

First On The List

Text : **Matthew 6: 19-34**

S#1.
S#2.

A. What is the most important thing in the world ?

1. World peace, or at least living free from fear ?
2. Having freedom, being able to live as one chooses ?
3. Being prosperous, or at least free from want ?

B. What is the most important thing in your life ?

1. Family ... especially grandchildren
2. Having your health
3. The typical answer differs at the various stages of life.
 - a. For older people ... it's security
 - b. For young people ... it's having friends
4. It varies by gender.
 - a. For the woman it's the security of having a nice house and it paid for.
 - b. For a man it's having a good job with benefits and a retirement plan.

C. When one is purchased by Christ he is assigned new priorities.

S#3.

1. Just in the gospels Jesus gave more than 40 different direct commands.
2. There are more than 1000 direct commands in the Epistles.
3. I've never met anyone who could recite them all. : -)

D. This lesson will focus on the commands of Jesus in one section of one sermon.

I. Do not store up treasures on earth, but work to store treasures in Heaven.

S#4.

A. Our life on this planet is but a span.

S#5.

1. Who is the oldest person you know ?
 - a. Sis. Stella is 101.
 - b. At 116, Emma Morano is now the oldest living person. Lives in northern Italy
2. We're not guaranteed even one more day of life. (*one heartbeat from eternity*)
Jas. 4: 14 – You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

B. Jesus warns us not to focus our life around a system that will fail.

S#6.

1. *You would never fly in an airplane that you knew was going to fall w/o warning.*

2. **Matt. 6: 19** – Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.
3. Jesus said that one should never rely on anything on this earth for his security.
 - a. The economy is always in flux; no matter how good it gets, it will cycle down.
 - b. Thieves steal, disasters come, banks crash, the government finds ways to take it.

S#7.

C. The greatest danger is that your treasure will become a priority in your life.

1. Wealth is a seductive, the more one gets, the more he wants.
 - a. **Matt. 6: 21** – For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
 - b. The **heart** follows the treasure.
2. Earthly treasures lead the heart away from God.

Matt. 6: 24 – No one can serve two master; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other.
You cannot serve God and wealth. (*Everyone makes a decision.*)

D. The bride of Christ cannot be the mistress of this world.

S#8.

1. **James 4: 4** – You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
2. *God is the one or He is none.* Everyone must choose.

II. Do not worry about physical things such as daily needs; trust God.

S#9.

A. Jesus is giving a clear and explicit command - - “Do not worry.”

S#10.

1. **Matt. 6: 25** – For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?
2. The refusal to obey a direct command from God is rebellion ... SIN.

B. God is NOT saying that we should not work to sustain ourselves.

S#11.

1. **II Thes. 3: 10** – For even when we were with you, we used to give this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.
2. Jesus is explaining that working for our living should not be the center of our life.

C. The main message of this section is “Trust God.”

S#12.

1. God makes demands on our lives, but He does not do so intent on our hurt.
2. God expects for our lives to be observably different from those of unbelievers.

Matt. 6: 32 – For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

D. God knows what our needs are and He provides what we need.**S#13.**

1. The problem is we tend to WANT more than we actually need.
2. **I Tim. 6: 6-8** But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. **7** For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.
8 If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.
3. The God who knows what we need also has infinite ability to give to us.
4. *To have too much creates greater temptation than to have too little.*

III. Make the kingdom of God your top priority in life.**S#14.****A. One's values and priorities are clearly demonstrated by the life he lives.**

1. As people observe you day by day, do they observe you to be different from others?
2. When you die, what will people write about what was important to you ?
 - a. There is always one or two qualities that stand out about each person ?
 - b. Will people talk about how good you were at your job or how you served God ?

B. HOW does Satan, "the god of this world", blind the minds of men ?**S#15.**

1. **II Cor. 4: 3-5** And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **4** in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2. Article by Tommy Lane : (*in the form of a parable*)

S#16.

Satan called a worldwide convention of demons. In his opening address he said, "We can't keep Christians from turning to God, but we can distract them from God. Let them go to church, but let us steal their time so they don't have time to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. This is what I want you to do," said the devil: "Distract them from maintaining that vital connection with Jesus throughout their day!"

"How shall we do this?" his demons asked.

"Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds," he answered. "Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear the still, small voice of God. Entice them to play the radio or iPod whenever they drive, to keep the TV, DVD, CDs and their PCs going constantly in their home. This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ. Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, mail order catalogs, and every kind of newsletter and promotion offering free products, services and false hopes. Let them stand in lines for hours for the latest cell phone or Harry Potter book forgetting about God. Let them be seduced by glitzy advertising that will lure them away from God. Fill their world and their minds with trash so that they will not have room for God. Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow.

Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6-7 days each week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles. Keep wives and husbands too tired to love each other after their work. Give them headaches too! If they don't give each other the love they need, they will begin to look elsewhere. That will fragment their families quickly! Keep them from spending time with their children. As their families fragment, soon their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work!

Keep skinny, beautiful models on the magazines and TV so they will believe that outward beauty is what's important, and forget that loving God and neighbor is what is really beautiful.

Give them Santa Clause to distract them from teaching their children the real meaning of Christmas. Give them an Easter bunny so they won't talk about his resurrection and power over sin and death.

Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Let them think that attending a sports event is more important than keeping the Lord's Day holy and treating the sport stars as if they were bishops. Keep them too busy to go out in nature and reflect on God's creation.

Keep them busy, busy, busy! It will work! It will work!"

It was quite a plan! The demons went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to get busier and more rushed, going here and there, having little time for their God or their families. Does "BUSY" mean: Being Under Satan's Yoke ?

C. God has a purpose for your life.

S#17.

1. We are to use our physical body in such a way as to bring glory to God.

I Cor. 6: 20 – For you have been bought with a price:
therefore glorify God in your body.

2. In every aspect of our lives, it behooves us to consciously bring glory to God.

I Pet. 4: 11 – Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever.

S#18.

D. Jesus used His friends (Mary and Martha) to teach us about priorities.

S#19.

1. Summary of **Luke 10: 38-42**

2. **Luke 10: 41-42** But the Lord answered and said to her, " Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;
42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

3. Martha was doing what was correct in the eyes of the world.

- a. They had at least 13 unexpected guests, probably more.
- b. The host family is expected to cook and serve for the invited guests.
- c. Mary was living in the home of her sister, Martha.

4. Martha had great faith (**John 11**) but had been caught up in the cares of the world.

S#20.

E. We live in this world, but have only seen Heaven by faith. (*concrete* –vs– *abstract*)

1. The squeaky wheel get the grease and this world squeaks loudly.
2. Like Martha, it's easy to get caught up in the swift current of life in America.
3. Some brethren have established colleges to provide a Christian environment for ...
 - a. The primary goal is to train young people to serve God and train preachers.
 - b. The most popular majors at these schools is now business and nursing.
 - c. Many rebel when chapel is mandatory. *Minds are centered on this world.*

IV. Do not worry about the future.

S#21.

A. Jesus instructs us to focus on what we can do for Him today.

S#22.

1. **Matt. 6: 34** – So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (*God is in control.*)
2. This is Jesus' summary statement for this section of His sermon.

B. His teaching is: Commit yourself to God's interest and trust Him to care for you.

1. Satan tries to keep us so busy in His domain that we forget about serving God.
2. *Satan is like the dentist who talks to you about many things to distract you.*

C. Worry is evidence of a lack of faith. (*Faith Deficiency Anemia*)

S#23.

1. God created all things, controls all things, and is the source of all good things.
2. God gives us what He thinks we need and what He wants for us to have.

D. Success on this earth is more often an obstacle than a blessing.

S#24.

1. Success seldom comes easy; it requires great effort. *It must be a priority.*
2. Thus, financial success is an obstacle to salvation :
Mark 10: 25 – It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.
3. "All Americans are rich" so it is difficult for an American to go to Heaven.
4. It is not evil to be prosperous, but it is an obstacle to salvation.
 - a. Our prosperity draws our minds into thoughts about our possessions.
 - b. Our prosperity leads us to trust in earthly solutions rather than on God's care.
 - c. When problems arise we go first to our banker. (*Visa, Master Card, etc.*)

CONCLUSION :

A. So, the point Jesus is making is that we should serve God and trust in Him. S#25.

1. He warns that earthly treasures offer no real security.
2. He commanded us not to worry about our daily needs, just trust God.
3. He commanded us to make His priorities our priorities.
4. He commanded us not to worry about our future, just serve God day by day.

B. In order to accomplish His commands, serving God must be done in the course of daily life, it must be our lifestyle, not an event. S#26.

1. People tend to think that serving God requires an event .. assembly, knocking doors
2. We start our day with a bible reading and prayer, but go out and leave God at home.
3. We must learn to take God with us wherever we go.
 - a. Keep him in our thoughts. (*There's never an hour passes that we don't think about our spouse, how much more should we think about our Savior.)*
 - b. If we're thinking about God He will come into our conversations.

C. We must learn to make talking about God and His church normal conversation.

1. We find ways to bring our children, grandchildren, sports team in conversations.
2. We have no problem mentioning what our spouse said or did.
3. Jesus died to purchase His church, it should be as easy to talk about church as house.

INVITATION :**S#27.**

- A. Do you trust God to provide for your needs ?**
- B. Is Jesus at the top of your priority list ?**
- C. Are you serving the one who holds your future in His hand ?**
- D. Jesus invites you to entrust your life to Him now and in eternity.**

S#28. Communion Slide

Lesson Text :**Matthew 6: 19-34**

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 neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; **21** for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. **23** "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

25 For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to 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, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? **27** "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? **28** "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, **29** yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. **30** "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! **31** "Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' **32** "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

34 "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.