

Where do you keep your valuables?

I. Slide1a **Announce:**

- A. Slide1 *bcd*, 2 Sent w/Love. CR. Marriage study. Couples Cooking. 40 Days.
- B. Slide3 **Children at Risk:** next Sun, 21st. *2 things:*
 1. Debriefing a bit about Justice Sun, bring your comments & suggestions.
 2. 2ndly, Kel will be sharing what was going to be a workshop, **“How Can I Make a Difference?”** We decided to offer it more as a follow up to the conference so after you’ve had some time to process all you heard, maybe you’d like some **ideas of ways to get involved.** *Very practical 40 diff ways to help.*
- C. Slide4 **Thrive** (to grow or develop vigorously). A new ministry Kel & I put together to *learn or revisit* the bible's foundational truths. Mercy rm. 11:30 service. Children’s church available. No cost. 1st 3: *What is the bible? Who is God? Who am I? Starts March 6th.*
 1. 3 Sundays, 3 month gap, etc. **12 all together.** You can also come to 1 if u see 1 that interests you, or all. **Sign up in info booth, office, or just show up.**
 2. **Lecture, interactive, Q&A.** Meet new people, pastors & church ministry leaders
 3. **Ultimately get you...grounded, meet ch leaders, go deeper in discipleship.**
- D. Slide5 **City Serve:** March 5,6th. Sign up you or your family online cityserve16.com.
- E. Slide6a **Easter Sunday:** Service times this year (4 indoor) **7, 8:30, 10, 11:30am.**
- F. Slide6b **Pray:**

II. **Intro:**

- A. Slide7 Title: *Where do you keep your Valuables?*
 1. **Do you trust those hotel safes?** Sometimes you can...**but** often they have a default code like **00000** that the hotel uses in case you forget your code you entered. **Be careful.**
 2. Jesus encourages us here, to keep our valuables **in heaven with Him**, for **really safe keeping.**
- B. Slide7b Read Summary statement first (vs.33,34).
 1. **The Big Idea:** *Put God 1st & material things will be taken care of by God.*

2. **The kingdom of God** - is the primary subject of the Sermon on the Mount.
 - a) That **kingdom** which the God of heaven is erecting in this fallen world. Where we are *spiritually recovered* under our Messiah Jesus, as its **King**.
3. **His righteousness** - is the **character** of all such, described and illustrated in the verses prior.
4. **Seeking** - making them (**kingdom & character**) the **object** of *supreme choice & pursuit*.
5. **First** - seeking them **before and above all else**.
6. **All these things** - goes back to the preceding verses *all these things*, which refers back to *eat, drink, wear*, which He sums up in all that *He knows that we have need of*...or, all that is required for the present life.
7. **Added** - so *kingdom & character seekers* receive all of this as *a gracious reward* for **not** seeking the **earthly things**.

C. We have here **3 Imperatives/commands** of vital importance: **They are...**

1. (20) **Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**
2. (25) **Do not worry** (3x's +2)
3. (20) **Seek first the kingdom of God & His righteousness**

III. Slide8 **LAY UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN (19-24)**

- A. How do we turn our **addiction** to earth-treasure **to** a **passion** for heaven-treasure?
 1. **The caution**...don't put **earthly gain** **before** **heavenly investments**.
 2. One's attitude toward **wealth** is another **barometer** of their **righteousness**.
 3. **No**, we can't take it with us, **but** we can send it ahead.
- B. **Material possessions** *in that day*.
 1. **The rich man** was viewed as being **close to God**, **while** the **poor man** was somehow thought of as being **under His judgment**.
 2. Jesus put **material possessions** in a totally different frame of reference in this passage of the sermon.
- C. **Slide9** (19-21) Warning against the **3 beneficiaries** of our earthly inheritance. *moth/rust/thieves*

- D. Ancient teachers like rabbi Hillel, generally acknowledged the corruptibility of earthly treasure. Because thieves could dig through walls and steal a strongbox in one's home, well-to-do people usually tried one of several other methods to safeguard their wealth:
1. Investing money with moneychangers.
 2. Depositing it in a temple for safekeeping (even most robbers balked at robbing gods).
 3. Burying it in the ground or in caves, where, however, moth (for expensive apparel) or rust (for coins) could destroy its value in time.
 - a) What do you own or what owns you?
- E. Slide10a He didn't say where your heart is, there your treasure will be also.
- F. Slide10b No, reversed.
1. Your heart is like the feathers/fletching on an arrow, it follows precisely where the point leads it.
- G. (22,23) Think of spiritual blindness. The Pharisees had this problem because their spiritual eyes were diseased. [an eyeball in itself can't be bad morally]
- H. The eye is the organ of perception through which our whole personality is guided.
1. If we focus our vision on what the world calls success, our perception will be distorted and the light of God's revelation of reality will be blocked out. Our whole personality will be darkened. What are you looking at?
 - a) What are you focusing on? What do you see? Temp? or eternal?
- I. (24) 2 masters rarely shared slaves, but when they did it always led to divided interests.
1. Remember about 1/2 the people in the Roman kingdom of Jesus' day were slaves. And there were no part time slaves. Slide11 Thus, no part time Christians.
 2. You can't look in 2 directions at one time. A slave can't serve 2 masters. And you can't live for both God and material wealth.

IV. Slide12 DO NOT WORRY (25-32)

- A. How do I not worry? This is in no way to belittle your bouts with anxiety, worry, stress.
1. Worry an old Anglo Saxon word, wrygan meaning to seize by the throat & tear.
 2. Ulcers are not only caused by what you eat, but also by what is eating you.

3. This doesn't say, *don't take thought of your life, or don't plan for your life*, but instead not to take *anxious thought or worry* over it.
- a) *Answer me this...* What were you worried about exactly 1 year ago today?
- B. (25) Most people in antiquity had little beyond basic necessities: *food, clothing and shelter*. Because their acquisition of these necessities often depended, especially in rural areas, on *seasonal rains* or (in Egypt) the flooding of the Nile, *they had plenty of cause for stress even about food and clothing*.
- C. *What you will put on* - maybe Jesus was thinking about us, because our our battle isn't *having something to wear*, but *having too much & having to decide what to put on*.
1. Our anxiety isn't over if we'll eat, but which place?
 2. Our anxiety isn't over if we'll find *clean water* today, but with or w/o *ice*, with or w/o *bubbles/gas*, with or w/o *a straw*, spring/mineral, imported/domestic, etc.
- D. *Slide13* (26) *Your heavenly Father* - He is not the birds Father. *He is the birds Creator (& Caterer)*. *He's the believer's Father*. *He's the unbelievers Judge*.
1. Oh God, give me *bird faith/bird trust*!
- E. (27) Neither lengthen your stature or lengthen your days.
- F. (28-30) *It's interesting*, we who care so much about how we look, have simply a *bland peach, brown or black skin* for our covering...*while flowers*, are arrayed w/so vibrant of colors. *Slide14,15 Ritter Pic's*
1. *Lord, help me to be as content as a lily w/how you made me w/how you clothed me*.
- G. The flowers here may be *anemones*. We always see *red* one's in Israel each spring we go. *But* there are also *purple* one's, the color that many ancient readers would have envisioned for *Solomon's royal robes* (29).
- H. (30) To think the Lord who *clothes lilies* will *leave his own children naked*, is shameful.
1. *The perishing of grass and flowers* as they dried up in *each year's summer heat* was a natural image for *human mortality*.
- I. (31) Don't fret over the *world's trinity of cares*: *eat, drink, wear*?
- J. (32b) *For your heavenly Father knows that you need these things* - *God is a know-it-all*. God knows everything. His knowledge is *immediate, instantaneous, comprehensive, and fully retentive*. God knows what He knows without any kind of painstaking research; schooling, or use of google, or even siri.

K. Slide16 So, How do I not worry? By finding the courage to *abandon our lives* to God's care. Jesus' illustration answers us. God feeds the birds & clothes the flowers - and you and I are of infinitely more value to our Father. His power **orders** every detail of the world in which we live; knowing His **power** and knowing His **love** for us, His children, *we abandon ourselves* to His loving care. We know that He will meet our needs.

V. Slide17 **SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD & HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS** (33,34)

A. How do I make *thy kingdom come* a reality in my life today?

B. You'll worry about **your life** or worry about **His kingdom**. Jesus says, *how about you worry about My kingdom, & I'll worry about yours? Deal?*

C. (33) Jesus said we are not even to be anxious about *necessities!*

1. **Living in the kingdom means** abandoning our very lives to the Father's care **so** that we can concentrate on *seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness*.

D. (34) Every day brings its own cares; and to *anticipate* is only to **double them**.

E. Slide18a **7 Reasons not to be anxious**: These 8 arguments are a gift from Jesus to **free you from anxiety** & to **make you a generous giver**.

1. **Life is more than Food; the body is more than Clothing** (25)

a) **In other words**, don't be anxious about your soul & your body because those who might take your **food** and your **clothing**, and even cause your **death**, **cannot** take your **real life** or rob you of **your resurrection body**.

b) **In Christ you are immortal**. Lk.12:4 **My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do**.

(1) There is something far worse than **death**, and it can never happen to you *in Christ*. **So don't be anxious**.

2. Slide18b **You are more valuable than the Birds that God Feeds** (26) **2 premises...**

a) **Premise 1**: God is so completely in control of the natural universe. **Every seed** picked up **or** insect eaten **or** worm pulled up from the ground is provided by God. He does that for birds.

b) **Premise 2:** You are of more value to God than they. 1 Pet.5:7, **Cast all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.** *So much more than for the birds whom He feeds.* **So don't be anxious.**

3. **Slide18c Anxiety accomplishes nothing (27)**

a) Here is a simple, practical argument: **anxiety does no good. It accomplishes nothing.** It doesn't help. [from WebMD.com] *Chronic worrying can affect your daily life so much that it may interfere with your appetite, lifestyle habits, relationships, sleep, and job performance. Many people who worry excessively are so anxiety-ridden that they seek relief in harmful lifestyle habits such as overeating, cigarette smoking, or using alcohol and drugs.*

b) **Preach this to yourself:** I am accomplishing nothing helpful by this anxiety. **I will listen to Jesus and say no to this useless emotion.** I refuse to be mastered by a useless emotion.

c) *Control the things you can control. Give God the rest.*

4. **Slide18d The grass & the lilies that God clothes last for a day, but you are eternal (28-30)**

a) This is almost the same as the argument from the birds of the air. But not quite. The point there was that you are more valuable than the birds that God feeds. The point here is that you are eternal, and the grass and the lilies last for a day.

b) **Anxiety is a trust issue,** for He says, *O you of little faith (30).* So **Trust Him!** Trust your Father. **Come what may, he will take care of you.**

5. **Slide18e Anxiety is worldly (31,32a)**

a) *For the Gentiles seek after all these things* - if you are anxious, you are like the world. This is what people do who don't know God. **Anxiety is worldly.**

b) You might think this is a naive approach, how can this dispel this monster so easily. **But I didn't say it...Jesus did.** He knows this monster of anxiety better than any of us. He knows how to fight it. It is a fight. **He multiply's weapons for us.** *Sometimes I will work, sometimes another.* Paul gives another in Phil.4:6 **Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.** **Add these to your arsenal.**

6. **Slide18f Your Heavenly Father knows what you Need (32b)**

- a) *Father* means he loves you & you are on his heart as a child.
- b) *Heavenly* means He's sovereign over all the earth & nothing can stop him from doing good to you. He is never at a loss to know what is **good** for you **and** He has all the **wisdom & resources** that it takes to meet your need.

7. **Slide18g God does not overload any day with trouble** (34)

- a) **Each day** has its appointed amount. So don't reach into tomorrow and bring its troubles into today. Lam.3:22-23 *Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.* **Each day** has its own appointed troubles, **and** there are new mercies appointed for us every day so you can bear them. **Trust him they'll be there.**

F. **3 Questions to ask ourselves:**

- 1. Did God govern the world OK before you entered it? **yes**
- 2. Do you think He will do as well when you are gone from it? **certainly**
- 3. **Then**, do you not think you may **trust Him** to govern it as long **as you live?** **yes**

G. **End:** Seekers are you ready to make a kingdom shift? From yours to His?