

## Episode #728 Matthew 6 Part 4-Do Not Worry

I. The purpose of the gospel of Matthew is to present Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel. It is another grand treatise like John to prove to Israel Who Jesus really is. It is the book of being “in Israel,” in contrast to believers today who are “in Christ.”

II. The Lord was giving His great teaching session to His disciples commonly called the “Sermon on the Mount.” After teaching them the Lord’s prayer, which we suggested was really the disciples’ prayer, He went on to talk about forgiveness, fasting, and placing your treasure in heaven. Today, He continues His teaching to His disciples.

III. Do Not Try to Serve Two Masters! No one is able to do this, the Greek is *dunatai*, meaning no one has the inherent power to do this. “Serve” is *douleuo*, to slave for two *kurios*, lords. “Hate” and “love” are words of action, in Greek *miseo*, *agapao*. Mammon is an Aramaic word for wealth or money, personified as a god by the Syrians (Arameans).

IV. Do Not Worry!

- A. Verse 25. Not worrying has to do with no anxious care or anxiety. “Life” is the Greek word for soul, desires, yourself. Who is He speaking to? To me? A careful person needs to look ahead for needs of the future. A careful parent will think of how to clothe and feed his children. This was spoken to the disciples, who were under the Lord’s employ and whom He would care for. There is a difference between today and the kingdom, when you will not need to care for such things.
- B. Verse 26. He speaks of the birds of the heaven (sky). Should we tell farmers not to do this, not to sow or reap? No, certainly not! These were instructions for His followers!
- C. Verse 27. “Worrying” or being troubled or anxious is the same word as in verse 25. Martha was this when she was troubled by serving the Lord in Luke 10:41. Paul urges us to be troubled or anxious for nothing, Philippians 4:6. “Stature” can mean height or age. In the context of a cubit it would seem to mean height here. But Bullinger says cubit could mean span or a very small thing, so could refer to a small amount of time. Certainly a cubit is not small and would be far more than most short people would want to add. Certainly we cannot worry ourselves older either!
- D. Verse 28. “Clothing” returns to the topic of verse 25. A lily is beautiful, but they were common flowers in Israel. “Spinning” refers of course to how clothes are made. This was usually women’s work, so the Lord’s words apply to both men and women.
- E. Verse 29. The modest lily, a common flower in Israel, is nevertheless arrayed by God in finery men are unable to match, even Solomon, the richest of Israel’s kings.
- F. Verse 30. The “oven” is the furnace. This word is only used in this context, both here and in the parallel passage in Luke. “You of little faith” is *oligopistos* (little-faith-ones), a word only used by Christ Himself.

V. Conclusion: The Lord taught proper conduct for disciples. They cannot serve two masters, as no one can serve God and the god of money at the same time. They should not worry about food, drink, and clothing. Does this mean we should not worry about these things either? These were disciples who had left all to follow the Lord, and their care was His responsibility. They were to trust Him for everything, as to do anything else was an insult. But that does not mean we can be careless about our needs today. We can learn from this, though, that God’s promises should be trusted.