

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Matthew 6:25–34: The Futility of Worry and the Freedom of the Kingdom

Preaching Date: October 25, 2026

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Understanding the Text

1. Jesus begins with “For this reason” (v. 25), immediately after warning that we cannot serve God and wealth (v. 24). How are the idolatry of Mammon and anxiety about material needs related? What do they reveal about where we seek security?
2. What do the birds and lilies teach us about God’s providence and the greater value of His children (vv. 26–30)? Why is trusting His provision not an excuse for laziness or irresponsible planning (Proverbs 6:6–8; 1 Timothy 5:8)?
3. Why is worry unable to accomplish what we hope it will (v. 27), and why does Jesus say, “You of little faith” (v. 30)? How does Christ’s perfect obedience and righteousness comfort believers whose faith is weak (Matthew 26:39)?
4. How does Jesus contrast the pursuit of the Gentiles with the confidence of those who know God as Father (vv. 31–32)? What does our adoption in Christ mean for us when His providence includes suffering (Romans 8:35–39)?
5. What does it mean to “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness” (v. 33)? How do justification and sanctification differ? Why does the promise of provision not guarantee prosperity or a trouble-free life (v. 34; Hebrews 11:35–38)?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. Luther’s “Doctor Redbreast” rested on a slender branch without worrying about tomorrow. What circumstances most tempt you to grasp for control rather than rest in your heavenly Father’s care?
2. The sermon distinguished wise stewardship from anxious self-reliance. In your work, finances, health, or family life, where might responsible preparation be giving way to worry?
3. John Bunyan said of his family, “I must venture you all with God.” Is there someone you love, or an outcome you desire, that is particularly difficult to entrust to the Lord? How can you continue caring faithfully without assuming God’s role?
4. Hudson Taylor gave his last half-crown to a family in need, without knowing how his own needs would be met. What costly act of generosity or obedience might seeking God’s kingdom first require of you—even without an immediate material reward?
5. Jesus says, “Each day has enough trouble of its own” (v. 34). What possible trouble of tomorrow are you carrying today? What specific duty can you fulfill now while casting your anxieties upon the Father (1 Peter 5:7)?