

## “The Messiah’s Message (Part 3)”

### Matthew 6

#### **Youth Announcement!!!!**

Here in Chapter 6, this portion of the Kingdoms constitution, Jesus will deal with outward activities; Ch.5 was about our inner attitudes, now we are dealing with the things seen.

Jesus will now tell us His Kingdom Laws regarding others now.

#### **Do Good to Please God**

6:1 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven."

This is something that would be hard for the Pharisees of the day, who longed to be recognized by men.

They would draw much attention to themselves when they would help the needy out....

So they can hear the words “He is so godly.”

But Jesus says they have no reward from God... Their reward was the accolades of men.

This is a good lesson for us as Christians....

We as Christians will not be at the Great White Throne Judgment, where men will be judged and cast into Gehenna, or eternal hell.

But we will be judged at the Bema (Pulpit) Seat of Christ...

Where our works will be laid out, and the one's done with a pure motive to please God, will be rewarded.

Let us look at 1 Cor. 3 as the Apostle Paul explains this for us...

1 Cor. 3:11-15 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

We are to be doing the things the Lord would have us do, with a heart solely set out to please our Father in heaven.

The things we do with an impure motive will be burned up, as wood hay or stubble, but our

untainted works will be rewarded and purified as silver or gold through the heat of a furnace.

So back in Matthew now...

As Jesus continues to explain this in vs. 2

2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Now we don't know if Jesus was being cynical here, or if the Pharisees actually had trumpets to blow when they would do a good deed.

Some commentators suggest they would blow a trumpet in the street, so the poor would know to go to that person.

But the heart behind the trumpet blower was for man to notice what they were doing.

So we as Christians have to watch that we are not trying to please man, with our godliness.

Jesus explains the heart of our giving here next...

3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

He is saying do give, and give in a way, that your left hand has no idea what the right hand is doing.

You know when you give your offering, as you do it; don't waive your other hand in the air so as to draw attention to your gift.

We need to guard our hearts from this... Notice Jesus is not saying it is bad to give.

Charitable deeds are still essential, tithing still good and right... But do it unto God, not for man to know.

God loves a cheerful giver...

You know we are a small church in comparison to others but you must understand your giving is impacting others in huge ways, continually, your giving has reached to other continents and countries in the Name of Jesus.

When our missionary in South Sudan Rob Douglass sent out an emergency request in July

**stating:** The children in our sponsorship program are currently safe as they live 250 miles from the Capitol and violence, currently we have enough meals to last them the next month. It is possible that this crisis could escalate at any moment triggering an evacuation. In light of this, we have established a South Sudan Crisis Fund. This fund will help provide whatever is needed to stabilize our children. These gifts may be used for emergency rescue, relocation, housing, food, or any other necessities to provide a safe environment for our missionary team and the children. 100% of every donation to this account will go toward caring for the children and people of South Sudan.

You see because of your giving, and not letting your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

your offerings enabled us to send these children \$1000 to make sure they are cared for.

Each month you are being used to support two Calvary Chapel Churches in an Orthodox dominated country of Russia.

These churches depend on your support as they receive hardship from the government and Overpowering Orthodox Church.

You are being used to hold up Pastor Hector in a gang, and prostitute infested area.

And your giving is going toward helping build the ministry buildings and support of the pastor.

You generous giving to this ministry here allows us to support two missionaries in Israel.

Cheryl and her husband Len are on the front lines sharing the gospel with Jews and Muslims, facing new dangers every day.

You also support The Joshua Fund, a ministry that not only reaches Israel but many other counties in the Middle East.

We are a small church yes, However...

You are known for your giving all over the world, and the neat thing is you don't even realize it.

God is using this mighty little Body of Believers for monumental things, because your focus is on the Kingdom.

Now if you have not participated in the Joy in Giving to the Lord and His work, I would encourage you to do so.

Nobody is monitoring your giving here, it is between you and God.

There are such sweet promises given to those believers who are obedient in this area of their life.

Now it is interesting that since it is not a visible part of our Christian walk to man, many don't even give a tenth of their increase to the Lord.

J. Vernon McGee, says "I'll show you a Mature Christian by looking at his pocket book."

The way you live, either for the Lord's eyes, or for man's eyes will show in this area of your life.

Now the neat thing about this church I have found.... is we have no Mrs. Olsen's here, from Little House on the Prairie, no one wants a plaque made for the highest giver, no pews named after the most generous.

Our seating is not arranged by those who give the most.

You know you get to sit closer to the pastor. As if that would be a reward?

But silent givers obedient to scripture, living for God's eyes alone.

You tithe and give in such a way we are able to reach multitudes of people for the Kingdom.

And this is why this little family here in the corner of the desert is blessed, because Jesus says...

**Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."**

Amen?

You know my father really instilled into me a heart of giving from a young age.

He told me the story how he came to trust God in this area of his life.

He said he and my mother were just married, he was in the army and I had just come into their life.

And they were just recently saved.

My dad was serving in Germany, and you know the pay for a soldier was not much then, and should be more even today.

But they were living paycheck to paycheck, and at this particular moment, they had some unexpected things happen to where they only had about \$30 until my dad got paid again in a week or so.

My father told me they couldn't buy diapers for me, so they were using newspapers.

The sergeant who led my father to the Lord was disciplining my father.

And my dad came across this topic about tithing to the Lord.

He went to his sergeant and asked what it was all about.

The sergeant explained it to him, that it was giving a tenth of your increase to the Lord, so out of \$100 \$10 would be a tithe.

And it should go to your store house, the place you are fed weekly.

It should be done joyfully or not at all, God was not broke.

It was an act of obedience and really an act of faith, showing your trust in the Lord for your provision.

Well my dad was just radically saved from a life of destruction and moral decay, and Christ grabbed a hold of him in such a powerful way my father

wanted to do everything right for his wonderful Savior.

He and my mother went to church that Sunday, my father tells me a tithe would be that last \$30 they had. It was exactly a tenth of his salary.

He and my mom agreed they must trust God, even though it did not make sense.

So my dad put in his tithe, he said he had change in his pocket and he through that in too.

He gave God a tip. 😊

Well he and my mother went home that Sunday, and worry kind of set in.

Where were they going to get food? How were they going to take care of me their baby?

They wondered if they had acted foolishly, and maybe wisdom would say they should have waited until the next paycheck?

And they settled their hearts that night and just simply prayed, and God gave them a peace.

Well the next day my dad went off to his duties, and my mother went to see if any mail had come.

And it had, and interestingly enough a letter from my grandparents.

She opened the letter from my father's dad, and in it was a note, "hey we had some extra money this

month, and we really felt an urge to send it to you, so here you go.”

It was \$300.

God met my parents in their faith, my father told me God so imprinted this aspect of his Christian walk on his heart, and from that point on they gave knowing God would take care of them, for which He has to this day.

Now when me and Jess came to the Lord, I remembered this story from my father, and for us it was never a question, and we have seen God just do the miraculous at times to provide, as we honored Him over the years.

So I want to encourage you who already understand this principle in our Christian life, keep it up, God is using you in ways you will only know when you are in eternity.

For those who do not know the joys of giving to the Lord in faith, my hope is the Lord begins to speak to you in this area.

I understand there are many in the church who have really done a disservice to the Lord in manipulation and greed.

But understand the leaders here in this church have built in a great deal of accountability in our finances.

We have set up a way for you to give in such a way, that it is between you and God.

Also every decision on expenses is prayed through and kept within that system of accountability.

I am excited, because as God continues to bring an increase to our coffers, that means our reach with this gospel will also increase.

I am hoping by next year to pick up another pastor in Mexico, Pastor Gustavo, also a missionary in Asia, Jim Davis who is traveling around Asia teaching how to study and teach the Word of God, he is equipping pastors and church leaders all over the map.

I am praying too we will be able to support Rose of Sharon monthly, they are a Christian Pregnancy Care.

You know we do a lot of complaining about abortion, but we do very little to combat against it.

This ministry Rose of Sharon gives us Christians a battle front right here in our community to save the lives of our unborn children here locally.

I would hope that someday soon we can pick up Victor Marx's ministry who is facing perils to bring aid to the persecuted church in the Middle East.

How many of you see ISIS cutting off the heads of our brothers and sisters, and just feel hopeless and wonder “What can I do to help?”

Well hopefully soon we will be supporting a ministry right there in the thick of it, and this little church will be a part of the battle there in the Middle East.

Your giving to the Lord here will be used for great and noble purposes, beyond our own necessities of running a day to day ministry here in Victorville.

For which this neighborhood and community are right in the midst of a fertile battle ground.

There is so much more, and as the Lord continues to bring an increase, the leadership here has decided that out of all of our income, we will too will tithe to missions as a church.

So as you put this principle to practice so does this ministry, and know most of the time it is more than a tenth going to missions.

So we need to move on, I am sure I have done a very good job of making you uncomfortable, as this topic of giving seems to be taboo from the pulpits these days.

So Back to Matthew...

Jesus goes on to say...

## The Model Prayer(Luke 11:2-4)

5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

You see the Jews took their prayer time serious, as it should be... But again their lengthy prayers were for men to hear, not for God.

They would go 3 times a day to the temple or a synagogue to pray.

But the hypocrite could be found on the corner of the street, because he was so holy, and burden down with prayer, he couldn't wait until he got there.

Everyone would look and say, "my, what a godly man."

Their prayers would be emotional appeals, with head movement, all to draw attention to themselves.

You know you have prayed with these types before, they try to please God with their large vocabulary, and such pious prayers, they control pray meetings with their repetitious drawn out prayers.

They are hoping to win the hearts of those in the room, but totally seem to disregard the One Whom they say they are addressing their prayers to, they seem to preach sermons in their prayers, instead of making petitions.

You know these types... And really God is not impressed with flattery, and Holy overtones, he sees right to the realities of our heart, and really that awareness should bring humility to our prayers.

Look how Jesus gives the correct way to pray, as He exposes the hearts of the great leaders of that day...

6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Go into a private place and meet with God...

Does this mean we should not pray openly with each other?

There is a place for public prayer.... [Matt 18:19-20](#)

19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

So there is a place to come together as believers and pray, but we have to make sure we are not praying for man's ears.

This is hard, it is a battle sometimes, we think if I don't sound Holy, everyone will think differently of us, so we try to sound intelligent, and we use words that we would never use in normal conversation, and we change the tone of our voice, to sound holy.

I think the sweetest prayer times are with our youth, or little kids, because they can care less what people are thinking of them.

They are just talking to God, and He hears them because they are just real, not worrying about those around them.

My daughter Sofia puts tears right on the corner of my tear ducts when I over hear her prayers.

She almost gets me every time... In fact, if my wife talks to me in that moment of holding back my tears, I would just lose it.

Jesus goes on to explain...

**7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.**

The Buddhist do this, they pray over and over again, to try and get their gods attention. Some sects of Christianity do the same...

They take the prayer we are about to learn, and it becomes a memorized tradition, instead of a prayer to God.

God does not care for our vocabulary, or our many words, just a meaningful blessed time with His child.

“Lola in my Lap”

God does not want to be impressed, but He wants to have a relationship.

Look what He says next...

8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

What then is the point of prayer...? Why do we need to avail anything in prayer, if He knows everything?

Prayer is not for us to control our outcome, but for us to be in such communion with God, we hear what He wants our outcome to be.

We pray, knowing He knows everything, asking for His direction to weather the storm.

He just desires to hear from us... He is not looking to be dazzled.

He is just looking for us to come to Him.

And Jesus next will kind of give us a model prayer, not one to be recited in vain repetition, but an example for us to come to God.

You know you teach a child a model prayer...

“Before I lay me down to sleep....” But the day they also say “bless mommy and daddy” we are so excited

The same with this model prayer, it is just an example... but there is excitement when you move into your own prayer life.

Jesus just gives a template to get us started...

Matt 6:9-13 In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

10 Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

13 And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

So let's break that up a little bit to see what Jesus is teaching here...

9 In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

He shows us the first part here, is adoration, we know who we are talking too.

The Creator of the universe... Hallowed, means we are to reverence Him, as separated and different from anything else in our life.

His name is Holy, but at the same time Jesus shows us, we are to come to Him as one of His children.

The Christian has this unique relationship with God Almighty...

No other kind of person, except the believer can come to God as a child of His.

We are to speak to Him, as though He is our Father. Individually, we come as a child.

And for those of you who have horrible fathers, it is hard for you to make this concept work.

Because you relate your earthly father with your Heavenly Father.

But we have to be careful, we need to understand our heavenly Father through scripture, not through a fallen sinful man.

God's Love for you is nothing that you can understand fully in this life... We can only get a glimpse through the lens of scripture.

Scripture paints the most beautiful pictures of our God...

When you study the Revelation of Jesus Christ you will learn about the New Jerusalem, where God will dwell with us, as He intended to do so at the beginning of Creation, before the fall.

Now listen to this picture of God, especially if you have in your head an austere God, or an angry God.

Rev 21:1-4 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor

sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

I remember one Weds. night over there in Apple Valley my wife Jessica and my daughter Sofia came early too hang out with me before church.

Sof loved the goldfish that her teacher gave her, so every time she came to church she would ask for a cup of gold fish.

It was special to her...

Well when she was walking across the campus with me, she tripped over her shoes and spilled all her goldfish all over the ground

Her little heart was broken, and she started crying desperately for her goldfish, and her busted up knees.

So I raced to get her some more, I wanted to be her hero.

And I got back, gave her goldfish, I ran my finger down her face to wipe away any tears she had left.

I thought in that moment, what an amazing picture, how intimate a thing to wipe away my daughter's tears.

But you see I am only her earthly father, I cannot take away the hurt, and pain that this cursed earth produces.

I can only wipe away her tears and pray the Lord her true Father touches her little heart.

But the scriptures promise me one day, as she and her Heavenly Father dwell together, He will permanently wipe away her tears, He will remedy the sorrow that sin has created in her life, He will make all things New for my precious little daughters and son.

And know this this morning church He loves each and every one of His children the same, so no matter what hurt you carry in this life, no matter how sorrowful your heart is in this fallen world, we as Christians have a hope, a future, that was paid for with the Blood of This Jewish King.

So yes in this life you will have pain, but someday soon, and very soon we are going to see the King.

I love that when I have doubts: "how can this possibly be Lord, there is no way someone like me, a miserable wretch, can spend eternity with a perfect, indescribable God, how Lord, why would you want that?"

And scripture replies back there in Revelation

....**21:5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."**

God reminds me, you don't have to understand it, just know, I, The Creator of the Universe proclaim, these Words are faithful and True.

Just know He loves you so vastly, so immensely that you should find joy in coming to Him in prayer.

He loves when you respond to Him, and pursue this relationship He offers.

Come to Him as the Loving Father pictured for us in scripture.

Now Jesus goes on in His template for prayer and says...

10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Until the moment of the Second coming of Christ, this prayer is necessary.

It is not until Christ's comes as Lord of lords and King of kings and establishes His Kingdom with a Rod of Iron can we let up on this petition.

Yes the Kingdom of God is here on earth now, but only in the hearts of those who have surrendered to His Will.

A heart totally subjected to The King is a citizen of this Kingdom.

But in this fallen world, man has chosen rebellion towards this King, and His Kingdom, so we pray,

Lord turn their hearts, Lord Your Kingdom Come, Turn the hearts of men, save them from the Gates of Hades, because You paid for them with Your Own Blood.

Save them before that Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord. Your Kingdom Come Lord.

Then He teaches to pray “Your will Be Done, here on earth as it is in Heaven”

What is heaven like you ask?

Heaven is a place where God’s will is done 100% of the time.

If you want heaven on earth, it seems the way to find it, is to live in God’s will.

But for some reason we fight it, when He tells us to forgive, we say no...

When He tells us to love, we say I can’t, when He tells us to obey, we scream, not fair...

And unfortunately we are missing the best life He could offer.

One that is completely in His will.

You see there is a misconception in our culture to what God’s Will is. We think His Will centers on us.

But just a glance through scripture reveals something amazingly contradictory to that false teaching.

We think when we sing “You make all things work together for my good” that means we get our way, and we have such a self-centered thought process.

God’s Will is often times difficult, it most of the time does not revolve around us, in fact everything in scripture shows us this.

Think of the Prophet Hosea, God asked him to marry a prostitute.

To give a picture to the Nation of Israel that they were prostituting themselves to the pagan gods all around them.

And there was obedience in that prophet’s life. He obeyed the command of God.

What about Jonah? God had him go to the most ruthless group of people. They have found ancient hieroglyphics from 700 BCE. in Nineveh. Judaeen captives impaled at Lachish.

This place was full of ruthless men; the images suggest they were just kind of walking around with the heads of those they conquered on their spears.

We get excited about the new iPhone coming out, and want to check it out when our friends get one.

Not in Nineveh...

“Sooo, how’s your day going? Oh you know, I got these 3 new rotting heads on my spear, want to take a look.”

A totally desensitized brutal people group.

And God says to Jonah go there and tell them to repent.

Jonah tried to run, but eventually was obedient to God’s Will.

We have to somehow understand that God’s Will is hard, and doesn’t revolve around us, but Him.

A true citizen of His Kingdom will obey, even if it doesn’t make sense.

Hosea’s obedience serves as an example for us to this day, Jonah’s obedience led to a Nation Repenting, and a great revival.

But somehow we have exalted our wants, needs, and comfort above what God wants.

And this portion of the prayer is turning our Hearts to our eternity with God, where His will is done all the time, and is not revolved around us but Him.

So Jesus goes on to teach us how to pray, and He says...

**11 Give us this day our daily bread.**

God is our provider, everything we have is from Him, and there is no mine and His.

We have to come to this understanding that He has given us everything we have, and He can take away everything we have in a moment.

But our response should still be “He Gives and Takes away, Blessed be the Name of the Lord”

This portion is kind of unreasonable for us to pray, He has given us in this country more than our daily bread, and we are sometimes ungrateful for that, we expect more.

Jesus goes on to say...

**12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.**

This seems to be the most important part of the prayer Jesus is teaching us... Because this is the only part He will clarify for us in a moment.

He goes on to say...

**13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

We are to pray daily for protection from Satan, and temptation. The devil wants to destroy our lives; we need God's strength to overcome him.

So we have a model prayer for us. It should help in the way we communicate with our Father in heaven.

So now Jesus continues on about forgiveness...

14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

What does this mean? Exactly what it says.

Some people try to explain this away, but it is pretty clear, we need to forgive.

Forgiveness; we will find kind of heals us.

Bitterness and anger destroy us.

These verses are some heavy truths that I think we overlook at times...

We need to be forgiving people.

**Matt 18:21-35** tells us something about forgiveness.... It says...

21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. 23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his

servants. 24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' 27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

28 "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' 29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' 30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. 32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' 34 And his master was angry, and

delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

These are strong words, but if we are real with ourselves and what we are asking God to forgive us for, than forgiving others should be a little easier.

How can we cry out to God and ask for forgiveness, and turn around and harbor feelings of hate and ruthlessness for our brother.

Forgiveness will be extended to us the same measure we use.

So back to Matthew 6... Jesus goes on to teach us...

### **Fasting to Be Seen Only by God**

16 "Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Fasting is something to be done for only you and God. It is not something to announce, or make known.

But it is also powerful... When you fast, and you are withholding your fleshly appetite from being filled.

For some reason, your spirit is less distracted... I don't know how to explain it, but God's Word becomes more alive, and your prayers more intimate.

But when we are doing it, we don't let people know about it... Because then our reward will be that men recognized us.

So if I am fasting, and someone offers me piece of cake...

I will not say "Oh how I long for that cake, but I am sorry ma'am but I am wrestling down strongholds in prayer, I'm sorry I must resist, I am fasting."

No, I will gladly break my fast and eat the cake, rather than draw attention to my fasting. 😊

So we are to be heavenly minded....

Have you heard this phrase? "Don't be so heavenly minded that you are no earthy good?"

Well it is a big false statement as we will see next....

## Lay Up Treasures in Heaven(Luke 12:33,34)

19 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

We are not to be living for this worlds stuff.

It does not mean the stuff in this world is bad... It just cannot be our main reason for living.

How long does it take something you have been waiting for, become old after you own it?

This worlds stuff just becomes undesired after a while.

### Xbox360 - \$500 - Story

You see Satan is a consumer... and you can tell this world is set up by him.

Every commercial making you feel you need something, especially in our country, we constantly want the new thing...

Satan knows how to get us to consume, we consume foods, products, clothes, everything we can... Just to find out it is just junk.

We fill up our trash cans with old stuff, old things we had to have, clothes that are out of style.

And Satan, the greatest consumer of all, applauds us, as we consume this world's goods, and consume and consume, while most of the world would gladly eat out of our trash cans, we don't think twice about it.

But when we are heavenly minded, we will be living for our reward in heaven.

You know at the Bema seat, those of us that have lived for the rewards here in this life, and man pleasing works, well, it will be noticeable in eternity, because our rewards will show for what we have done here with a pure motive.

We need to be heavenly minded... And bring glory to God.

Remember we are to let our light shine before men, but always to bring glory to God.

So Jesus continues on...

### **The Lamp of the Body(Luke 11:34-36)**

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

If our eyes are single-minded... Focused on the Lord, we will be full of light.

But if we are putting bad things in through our eye gate, we will be consumed with darkness.

We need to be careful what we let our eyes see.... That is why your Word is so important to read daily.

We live in a culture and a time where our eyes are bombarded all day long with data.

We have our phone in our face, our tablet, our computer, and our TVs. All day long there is no rest for our eyes.

If what is going through those eyes is darkness, you will be consumed with darkness, but if the Light of God's Word is going through them, it will illuminate your life accordingly.

As the Children's ministry song goes...

O be careful little eyes what you see  
 O be careful little eyes what you see  
 There's a Father up above  
 And He's looking down in love  
 So, be careful little eyes what you see

**We cannot un-see anything we look at, we need to be on guard.**

**Jesus continues on...**

## You Cannot Serve God and Riches

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

We cannot serve God and mammon or wealth.

If your drive is to be wealthy, it will destroy you.

But this does not mean wealth is a bad thing.

God has blessed some people to work hard, and they are entrusted with a little more.

God gives good gifts, for us to enjoy, as long as we understand their place.

1 Tim 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

You see money is not evil, the love of money is.

We cannot serve two masters, so if more, more, more is your master, then I would recalibrate this morning, and settle your heart before the Lord,

and allow Him to rule and reign once again in your heart.

Now Jesus continues on...

### **Do Not Worry(Luke 12:22-31)**

25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

You know worry is such a life strainer. Not one thing is accomplished with worry.

Don't worry about what you will wear, or the food you will eat.

Life is more than this...

We waste so much time worrying about tomorrows outfit, or shoes...

Jesus says what a waste of life.

Enjoy what you have, enjoy the fact you are alive today, and worry less about your clothes and appearance.

Look what Jesus says next....

26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Jesus says look at the birds, they are a sermon every time you see them.

They are a reminder that you are more important to God than they are, and if God cares for them, how much more you, His child.

So every time you see a bird, remember God will take care of you.

You never see a bird on the telephone pole, all stressed out about the bills piling up, or how it will get the kids through college.

They live in a way that is totally dependent on God.

And yes contrary to popular belief in our culture, you are more important than a bird.

People in our country will fight to protect an eagle egg, and it is against the law to damage, or to touch an eagle egg.

But it is legal for a teacher to take a 16 year old girl in for an abortion without parental consent.

We are more than 55 million babies now aborted in the US.

And the same people will block bulldozers with their own bodies to save an owl.

But Jesus says a human life is more important!

27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

You cannot add 18 inches to your height. Worry accomplishes nothing.

28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

He says look at the way God clothed nature... Will He not provide clothing for you?

God likes beauty... So nice clothes are not a bad thing... but if it is your worry, every day to look good for people... you are wasting life.

31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all**

**these things shall be added to you. 34**

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

The whole crux of the matter is this:

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

This is the key here... we are to be so heavenly minded that we are earthly good.

We are to be in a relationship with God, totally dependent on God. Focused on the things of God.

This is where we find peace and fulfillment in life. To love God more than ourselves, it seems impossible, but He will give us the strength over ourselves, if we ask Him.

Remember He is your Father... He wants good for you, just trust Him with your lives.

The one passion for us as Christians should be a life that proclaims the gospel of God.

To seek first His Kingdom not our own Kingdom, to seek first His righteousness, not our own righteousness.

To build His Kingdom, not our own...

And in this we will find our purpose and a place in this world.

Amen?