

Jesus Teaches About Trust



Day 1:

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:33

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

In our devotions last week, we started learning about the sermon on the mount, which is found in Matthew chapters 5–7. First, Jesus talked about the blessings that would bring true happiness, the kind that will last forever.

What were these blessings called? **The beatitudes.**

Each of these beatitudes has a promise of blessing to those who have the right heart attitude. Then Jesus taught about the heart attitudes behind the Old Testament laws.

What did Jesus say was as bad as murder? **Saying mean things; calling each other mean names out of anger.**

Jesus was showing the people that having anger and hate in our hearts is where the outward actions of name-calling and murder begin. Because we all have sinful heart attitudes, we can't be perfect.

Who's the only one that lived a perfect life and died to pay the punishment for our sin? **Jesus.**

This week, we'll find out some more things Jesus taught that are very important for knowing God.

Remember, the Pharisees followed all kinds of rules, but they did them to be noticed by people, not because they truly loved God. Jesus pointed out how the Pharisees were making a show of praying so that others would see them. But Jesus said their prayers should have been just between them and God.

Then Jesus told his disciples how people should pray. His example prayer includes the types of prayer we've learned about before. We're going to start by reading Matthew chapter 6 verses 9–13.

Matthew 6:9-13

9 Pray then like this:

“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 also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

First, we should think about who God is when we pray, our holy Father in heaven. We should praise his name and think about how we can serve and obey him. This is a prayer of adoration and thanksgiving.

Then we should also ask God for help with our own needs—a prayer of supplication. Re-read verse 11 again.

What is something we should ask God to give us? **Daily bread (food).**

Jesus said that God knows what we need before we even ask, and food is something we need. God wants us to come to him and trust him to provide for us.

Now re-read verse 12. What is another thing we should ask for? What do we need God to do for us when we've sinned? Forgive us.

This is a confession prayer. Since God has forgiven our sins, he expects us to forgive those who sin against us, too. Then we should ask God for help and strength to say no to temptation so that we don't give in to sin.

This prayer we just read is called the Lord's prayer. But Jesus didn't mean for us to repeat these exact words every day. He wants us to use it as a pattern for when we pray. And the more we pray, the easier it will be to praise and thank God and to trust in him.

Day 2:

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:33

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

Trusting God to take care of all our needs can be hard. We like taking care of things ourselves. What are some things you can take care of now that you couldn't do when you were younger? **Allow answers. Get dressed, tie shoelaces, buckle belts, feed yourself, bathe yourself, read, write, etc.**

There are many things we should do for ourselves. But sometimes as we grow older, we start thinking too much about the wrong things, like trying to get lots of money so we can buy lots of stuff. Is that a good idea?

Think about it: clothes wear out, toys break, cars need to be fixed, and money can be lost or stolen. All the stuff we try so hard to get won't last. Jesus knew this, and he taught that instead of trying to get as much as we can now, we should store up heavenly treasures, rewards we will receive in heaven. When we share the gospel with others and do other things that please God, that's storing up heavenly treasures.

What are some other things we could do for God's glory that please him? **Pray for others, give to the church or people in need, encourage others, comfort someone, share what Jesus is doing in your life, etc.**

We need to be careful of what becomes most important to us. What do we use most of our time doing? What do we think and talk about most? Jesus explained that whatever we put first in our lives now shows us where our hearts really are. Do we care more about stuff here that won't last or heavenly treasures that will last forever?

Jesus knows that when we choose to put him first and start spending more time doing things for God, we may worry about how our everyday needs, like food and clothes, will be met. So Jesus talked about that, too. Let's read what Jesus has to say about that.

Matthew 6:31&33

31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Jesus said, "Do not be" what? **Do not be anxious.**

What does it mean to be anxious? **Allow discussion.**

To be anxious means to worry or feel upset or scared about something. Many times, we worry about things that haven't even happened yet!

Jesus said not to be anxious about three things. What are they? Verse 31. What we will eat, drink, and wear.

But what does Jesus say to do instead of worrying? What should we seek first? **The kingdom of God and his righteousness.**

It's like he said before; Jesus wants us to store up treasures in heaven by doing things that are righteous and pleasing to God. And he wants us to tell others how they can be part of God's kingdom by turning from their sins and believing in him. Jesus said these things should be first on our "to do" list.

But if we are busy doing things for Jesus, how will we get the things we need, like food and clothing? What does the memory verse say— these things will be what? These things will be added to you.

Right! Jesus promises to take care of the things we need. We don't need to worry about them.

Day 3:

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:33

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

Jesus told the people that they need to trust in God. He gave some examples of how God takes care of his creation. Listen to what he said about the birds in verse 26.

Matthew 5:26

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

What does God do for the birds? **He feeds them.**

God takes care of their needs and feeds them.

Let's read what else God's takes care of.

Matthew 5:28-29

28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

How about the lilies, or flowers? What did God do? **He clothes them.**

Jesus said even King Solomon—the richest king ever—didn't have clothes as beautiful as the flowers.

Since we're God's special creation, even more important than birds and flowers, we can trust that he will take care of us, too. What are some ways God cares for us every day? **Allow discussion.**
Provides food, clothing, homes, family, friends, rest, jobs to earn money for things we need, etc.

Jesus taught that God will take care of his children. This is a promise from God. And when God makes a promise, we know it will happen because God is faithful. We can trust he will always do what he says.

Jesus said, "Do not be anxious." Worrying, being anxious, is a waste of time, and it only makes us nervous and upset about things we can't change or things we don't even know will happen. Jesus said not to worry about tomorrow but to focus on obeying God each day as it comes.

This week in your prayer time:

*Thank God for loving us and taking care of us.
Ask God to help us not to worry, but trust in him.*