

Matthew 6:25-34. *There is but one priority.*

Context—Jesus is teaching... What treasures you store and where you store them tells you everything about your *raison d'être*. Don't fool yourself—no one can really serve two masters. It is perfectly natural to love one and despise the other—you are owned, the question is to whom. Bottom line: you cannot serve both God and Money [μαμωνᾶ, 3126; sometimes transliterated "mammon;" i.e., riches, possessions].

So? Stop worrying about your life. Nor what to eat, or drink, nor your body, nor your clothing. Hey, isn't life more important than clothes!?

- ✓ Pay attention to birds—Father God feeds them. Are you not more important than a bird?
- ✓ And, how much height, days on this planet, can you gain by worrying?
- ✓ And, please, clothes? Consider wild lilies—they neither sew nor go to K-mart. Even Solomon wasn't dressed as well as lilies.

Think about it—if Father God takes care of the grass which is here for awhile and then used in the campfire tomorrow, will He not clothe you—oh you of little faith!

Bottom line... don't worry about eating or wearing the latest fashion—unbelievers who are obsessed with pleasing Jupiter or their bosses run after all this. Father God knows what you need. **So, seek His kingdom and His righteousness and all this other stuff will be given to you as well.** Don't worry about tomorrow because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble as it is already.

- Q Why can't we please two masters, according to the Christ? Which two masters do you find difficult to serve simultaneously?
- Q What's particularly uncomfortable about what you consider "treasures" and where you store them?
- Q What's useful about worrying?
- Q What's wrong, dysfunctional, or problematic about worrying? [pretense of solution, idolatry]
- Q Is the Christ being realistic here; are we not creatures enculturated, if not designed to worry?
- Q What is the Scripturally based solution to our enculturated (or designed) nature to worry? [See <http://TheScoop.DThomasPorter.com/?p=256>]
- Q And, what does our enculturation teach us about how to deal with worry?
- Q What's problematic about the living out the philosophy of "putting God first?" [Deuteronomy 6:5]
- Q What have you found that facilitates your penchant for worrying? And, how were you able to diminish that penchant?

MATTHEW 6:25-34

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life [or *single cubit to his height*]?

²⁸And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

THE NINE? COMMANDMENTS OF THE DECALOGUE²

LEARNING NOT TO IGNORE THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

The Sabbath has always disturbed believers. We've demoted, altered, abrogated, and challenged its place in the heart of the Lord God. From the very *beginning* (Genesis 2:3) God set aside a day of rest; i.e., He made it holy, setting it aside and designing it, like all His commands, to help people be and stay closer to God. But...

- ⌘ Modern believers have demoted God's commandment to an anachronism of Judaism.
- ⌘ Reformation believers altered the fourth commandment by stipulating believers observe the Sabbath on the first day of the week, regardless of the witness of Scripture.
- ⌘ Pharisee believers abrogated the Sabbath; i.e., obedience became an artform of religious chest-beating, rather than a means of spiritual refreshment, a day made for humans (Mark 2:27).
- ⌘ Pre-Law believers challenged its observation (Exodus 16:23ff); to say nothing of those who had the fully articulated Law (cf., Nehemiah 13:15ff; John 9:13ff).

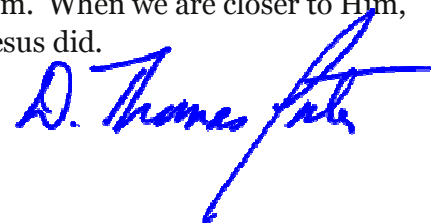
The Sabbath is important to the Lord God. Consequences for violation were, and are, dramatic. When the Sabbath was not observed under the Law of Moses, death could result (Numbers 15:32ff). Today, the consequences of failing to observe Sabbath are even more obvious—and deadly—stress has been clearly linked to heart disease, asthma, obesity, diabetes, headaches, depression, GI problems, and Alzheimer's (see <http://tinyurl.com/3zd9x7p>)

My Jesus observed the Sabbath; thus, it is clearly part of our

Christian heritage (c.f., Hebrews 4:9). Why did the Lord God create the Sabbath principle? God loves us; He deserves to be glorified while we're here on earth and beyond. It's difficult to do so when dead, coughing, fat, depressed, and/or with dementia.

And for those of you like me from Missouri, nothing shows you more about how central the Lord God is to your life when you stop everything and think on Him. It's hard. We're all so wrapped up in doing, doing, doing. And then we're done, or are we? Sabbath teaches us to see there's more to living than doing. And, ironically, our doing becomes more abundant. A glimpse of what's to come?

God is smart. He doesn't desire our obedience to fulfill some fascist, narcissistic personality. All of God's commands are designed to bring us closer to Him; i.e., to be blessed by Him. When we are closer to Him, He can be glorified, and we get to bask in that glory. Observe Sabbath—Jesus did.



²See <http://TheScoop.DThomasPorter.com/?p=256>