

## Matthew 6:24-34

Read the passage: [The Message](#) or [The New Revised Standard Version \(NRSV\)](#).

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In terms of the Lectionary, we are now picking up where we left Matthew back in the Season of Epiphany in January and February!

It might be helpful to pause on the word, "Therefore," which begins verse 6:25 and review the "whereas's" that begin in Chapter 5:

- The Beatitudes
- Being salt of the earth and light of the world
- Obeying and fulfilling the law
- Anger and reconciliation
- Adultery in our hearts
- Divorce
- Let your Yes be Yes or your No be No
- Do not retaliate, instead publically expose the unjust authority
- Love your enemies
- Give alms, but don't make a show of it
- Pray, but don't make a show of it
- Fast, but don't make a show of it
- Store up treasures in heaven not on earth
- Make sure your inner light is healthy
- Don't think you can serve two masters: God and wealth

These teachings are the basis for the "Therefore, do not worry" in Verse 25.

The teaching in verses 25 to 34 is about worry: anxiety, fear, fretting, fussing. It is **NOT** about planning, being responsible, caring. It is not encouraging us to have a laid back, "whatever" attitude. Notice the strong verb in verse 33 - strive / seek / desire / endeavour

The opposite of worry / fear / anxiety is faith - or better still - trust. If we were to trust in God as simply and completely as the birds of the air and the flowers of the field do, we would not be anxious. We **WOULD** still have responsibilities but would not be anxious about them.

And more than this, if set our responsibilities within the framework of first and foremost desiring God's realm and its justice, then our intentions don't get confused with our expectations.

Today's trouble is enough for today. Indeed.

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