



Matthew: Alive to God's Desire

2012 Week 4, Sermon preached 1/22/2012

Matthew 6:25-34

Start It:

- If you would like, share how your week has gone and any prayer requests you have.
- Did last week's study impact your thinking or actions this week?
- Have someone in the group read this familiar passage and ask the Holy Spirit to give it new and relevant meaning in the life of each participant.

Study It:

- How many times is the word "worry" used in this passage? What is the implication of this?
- With unemployment, homelessness, people on government aid, etc. today, is this admonition still valid? Explain.
- Jesus does not seem to be forbidding prudent foresight (i.e. he is not saying you should not have insurance, build retirement funds, have health insurance). If that is true, what exactly is He getting at?
- Share your struggles with trusting Him in this way.
- What effect does worry have on our lives? What does Jesus say it achieves?
- Reflect on Scripture and give examples of how God provided for His people and met their needs. Why are we told to "remember" time after time in His Word? Do you tend to think your circumstances are different and that God does not respond like that today?

Live It:

- Are you a worrier by nature? How can you overcome this?
- Who do you think is more anxious—you or your friends and neighbors? Would your friends and neighbors recognize that you are a Christ-follower based on your level of worry? Why or why not?
- What practical steps can you take to follow Jesus' teachings on 1) worry about the future and 2) seeking first the Kingdom of God?
- If today is filled with worry about tomorrow you are robbed of the blessing and joy God has planned for you today. In spite of your circumstances what are some of the blessings and joys you are conscious of this day?

Pray It:

- Ask the Lord to increase your faith in His provision and trust Him to provide.
- Pray for God to enable you to loosen your grip on your earthly goods and resources so that you might share with those in need. "Lord, help me to be responsible in providing for my family yet trust you to meet future needs so as to live generously now."



