

ONWORD

A weekly publication of the Enterprise Church of Christ

Surviving Financial Stress

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Join us:

Sundays

Bible class, 9 am
Morning worship, 10 am
Evening worship, 5:30 pm

Wednesdays

Midweek Bible study, 7 pm

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Surviving Financial Stress: Lean on Me

By Jay Tidwell

Some of Jesus' most powerful principles about money are in His Sermon on the Mount:

Riches aren't Measured in Dollars and Cents

Matthew 5:3: "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:11-12: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward [wages] in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Why is More Important than How Much

Matthew 6:1: "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven."

Rely on God for Each Day's Necessities

Matthew 6:11: "Give us this day our daily bread."

Is It Your Master or Servant?

Matthew 6:19-21: "Lay not up for yourselves

Extra Credit: Worry

Jesus warned about the "*cares of this world*" and how they could choke out God's word from a hearer's heart (Luke 8:14).

Worry is wasteful. Not an ounce of work gets done while we worry about how hard the work is going to be.

Worry is worthless. Jesus asks the worrying Christian, "*Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?*" (Matt. 6:27) A person has never grown an inch by worrying about how short he is.

Worry is worldly. Jesus says, "*Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? Of, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek)...*" (Matt. 6:31-32). Jesus said only the heathen (Gentiles), worry about things like food, drink, and clothing. Prayer is the cure for anxiety. Paul prescribes, "*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God*" (Phil. 4:6,7).

treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Matthew 6:24-25: "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. 25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?"

Seek and Ye Shall Find... All That's Needed

Matthew 6:31-34: "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

"The Lord... makes a covenant with His followers. He says, in effect, 'If you will put God's interests first in your life, I will guarantee your future needs. If you seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, then I will see that you never lack the necessities of life.'" (Believer's Bible Comm.). In the process of serving Him, we find each day all we need.