

What Are You Afraid Of? 4¹
The Futility of Anxiety. The Promise of Trust.
Matthew 6:19–34

19 “**Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth,**
where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,
20 **but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,**
where neither moth nor rust destroys
and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.

22 “The eye is the lamp of the body.
So, if your eye is healthy,
your whole body will be full of light,
23 but if your eye is bad,
your whole body will be full of darkness.
If then the light in you is darkness,
how great is the darkness!

Darkness, even when we think we can see. What makes sense to us is nonsense. The pathway we think we see leads only to futility.

24 “No one can serve two masters,
for either he will hate the one and love the other,
or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve God and money.

**Who/What is your master? Is it wealth? Is it power? Is it status? Is it popularity?
Is it health? Is it safety? What is most important to you?
Where is your time and energy spent that leaves you no time or energy to pursue
God's Kingdom and Righteousness?**

25 “Therefore I tell you, **do not be anxious about your life,**
what you will eat or what you will drink,
nor about your body,
what you will put on.
Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

26 Look at the birds of the air:
they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns,
and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

¹ Message prepared and shared with the congregation of West Salem Baptist Church by Dr. Paul Null, Sunday, August 4, 2019.
Scripture citations are from the English standard Version of the Bible.

Are you not of more value than they?

²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

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.

³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field,
which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven,
will he not much more clothe you,
O you of little faith?

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

³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things,
and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

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

³⁴ "Therefore **do not be anxious about tomorrow,**
for tomorrow will be **anxious** for itself.
Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

To seek God's Kingdom & Righteousness is to pursue relationship with Him and seek to live out his kingdom purposes with a whole heart.

Whatever occupies our attention to the exclusion,
or even the downgrading, of our pursuit of God's Kingdom and Righteousness
is darkness, is detrimental, is damaging, is futile, is destructive.
It is a waste of our lives.