

# Don't Be Spiritually Blinded By Circumstances

May 9, 2021

## On What Do You Spend Your Time And Energy?

Matthew 6:19-21 ESV

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.

John 6:27 ESV

27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal."

- *"If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat."* 2 Thessalonians 3:10
- *The Lord's commandments to not lay up treasures on earth and to not work for food which perishes are, in no way, instructing us to not work to provide for ourselves and our families.*
- *To not lay up treasures on earth and to not work for the food which perishes is instruction for our heart motive and attitude.*

Colossians 3:22-24 ESV

22 Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

- *Because the Lord orders our every step, in every relationship and circumstance, business or personal, we are truly and ultimately serving the Lord in everything we do.*
- *He is the one who has sovereignly placed us where we are in life today.*

## What (Who) Is The Focus Of Your Mind And Affections?

Matthew 6:22-24

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!

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.

Isaiah 26:3 ESV

3 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Romans 8:5-6 ESV

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 ESV

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Colossians 3:1-4 ESV

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

## Don't Be Spiritually Blinded By Circumstances

Matthew 6:25-34

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?

- Jesus commands us to not be anxious about our lives, specifically the circumstances of our lives.
- The circumstances Jesus used as examples are two basic necessities of life: food and clothing.
- The principles Jesus taught apply to any and all circumstances of life, not just food and 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. 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.

- **seek** (zēteō) to crave, desire, require, demand, aim at, strive after, endeavor
- **kingdom** (basileia) royal power, kingship, dominion, rule, not to be confused with an actual kingdom but rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom
- **righteousness** (dikaioynē) state of him who is as he ought to be, the condition acceptable to God, approved by God

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

- *Instead of being in bondage to the temporal, circumstances and anxiety, seek first above all else:*
  - *complete submission to God's kingdom rule, receiving every circumstance as from His sovereign plan and goodness*
  - *to be right with God, acceptable and pleasing to Him*
- *In every season and circumstance of life, our first, all-consuming priority and passion is to be right with God by being wholly surrendered to His sovereign plan and purposes.*
- *It is impossible to be right with God without first being wholly surrendered to His sovereign plan and purposes.*
- *Without being wholly surrendered, there is a continual, underlying resistance and resentment to the circumstances, to God's plan and purposes, and to God Himself.*
- *This continual, underlying resistance and resentment is the source of great stress, frustration and unbelief.*
- *As we seek first to be wholly surrendered and right with God, then we have the promise and the assurance that, "all these things will be added to you." God will go before us and meet the needs of each and every circumstance.*

*Job 1:13-21 ESV*

*13 Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,*

*14 and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them,*

*15 and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."*

*16 While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you."*

*17 While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."*

*18 While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,*

*19 and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you."*

*20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped.*

*21 And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."*

*22 In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.*