



October 5th - Rev Hugh Barlett

Matthew 6:25–34 “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. 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.

Let Father’s provision ground you & surround you

- Concerns: Responsible attention/action minus control over results
- Situational Anxiety: moments of Safety, health, etc.
- Chronic Anxiety: “20%” biological, trauma disorders
- Habitual Anxiety: regular unholy/unhealthy preoccupations
- His providence is powerfully present
- *Birds, Lilies, grass*
- His perspective challenges our fears
 - *Is not life more than food?*
 - *Are you not more valuable than they?*
 - *Which of you can add a single hour to your life?*
 - *Will He not clothe us?*
- Your Father knows and notices your needs
- As we seek first His kingdom, we see abundant gifts
- Face today’s concerns, let God hold tomorrow

In the last verse of Matthew 5, Christ calls us to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect—displaying a righteousness that is not superficial, but an absolute dependence upon our Heavenly Father. How does this passage reveal God’s provision for His creation and us?

Notice how God’s providence reaches to birds and lilies, and grass. How does this broad concern reveal God’s character?

What are humans in comparison to the created world of animals and plants?

Our Father knows what we need. Do we often feel that we know our needs better than God?



What would it look like to seek first the “kingdom of God and His righteousness?”

How has God provided for you in your life?

How does anxiety loosen its grip when we look to God’s provision for us?

What is the wisdom of verse 34?



September 27th- Rev . Hugh Barlett

Matthew 5:1–10 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Christ offers kingdom blessedness

Lackings: Poor in spirit; mourn for loss, hungry & thirsty,

Laments: Mourn for loss

Lifestyle: Mercy

Longings: Heaven, comfort, earth, mercy, satisfied, see God, “sons of God”

God blesses us in an amazing number of ways

God’s blessings fulfilled in “the now & the next”

Blessing expressed in character & then conduct

Christ describes the life of blessing. Notice how this is a parallel to Deuteronomy 27-28 where God offers blessedness as the result of our relationship with Him. How has God blessed you in your life with Him?

Notice how the blessedness is connected to the present living & longing which now and in full in the next – everyday & eternity!

What is surprising about these beatitudes as a foundation for living?

How do our longings & lackings find hope & help in God’s kingdom?

How do God’s promises reveal grace to us in our needs?

Which characteristics do you most desire? Struggle with?