



Starter Questions:

- What did you take away from the sermon tonight?
- What are some of the misunderstandings we might have about the Kingdom of God?
- How should a Christian view the Kingdom of God?
- How were you personally challenged to be more involved in the extension of God's Kingdom?

Group Study: Read Mt. 6:19-21

Jesus says, "where your treasure is, there your *heart* will be also." How would you define your "heart"?

Your "heart" in this sense can be defined as what you put your *focus, attention, affection and concern* on....what you put your whole self into. Since Jesus is talking about the heart of man, it is no wonder that the very next thing He turns to is "anxiety". **Read Mt. 6:25-33.**

Anxiety often controls and cripples our lives. Here are a few definitions of anxiety

- Fear about what might happen
- A lack of trust in God's control
- A lack of rest in your soul

Anxiety further proves where your treasure is because it exposes what your heart is most concerned with. In this passage Jesus keeps coming back to the command to not being over anxious over food and clothing...why

are these the only two things He talks about? Let's think about it : have you ever been anxious about what you were going to eat? How about what you were going to wear? Why were you anxious about what you were going to eat/wear?

It seems to me that Jesus is giving two driving categories of anxiety: appetite and appearance. Anxiety over appetite isn't merely speaking in terms of "do I have food" but rather "What kind of food do I have?" It is more than a longing to be filled, it is a desire to be "full"; not merely to have provision but to have plenty; a covetous heart that will only be satisfied once it has an "over abundance".

Anxiety over appearance doesn't just ask "how do I look?" but it goes deeper in asking "how do people see me? Who am I?" This category of anxiety is a desire to have purpose, to be seen, to be important.

Notice Jesus asks 5 questions in terms of these anxieties:

1. Is not life more than food?
2. Are you not of more value than birds?
3. Can you add a single hour to your life by being anxious?
4. Why are you anxious about clothing?
5. Will God not much more clothe you?

Look at those 5 questions again, and answer them together.

Now look at 5 commands that Jesus gives concerning our anxiety in the passage we've just read:

1. "Do not lay up treasures on earth but in heaven." (v. 19) This will give you *peace* as you know that what you are putting your effort into will not fade away.
2. "Look at the birds" (v. 26) Birds aren't anxious, they sing, and singing is an expression of *joy*. Why do birds sing? And how can looking at the birds kill anxiety?
3. "Look at the flowers" (v. 28) How can looking at flowers kill your anxiety of appearance?
4. "Seek first the Kingdom of God" (v. 33) Think now back to how Michael defined the Kingdom of God, what does it look like to "seek" that?
5. "Seek His righteousness" (v. 33) How will "all these things be added to you" by seeking Christ's righteousness?