

Matthew 6:19-34

Introduction: Worry – when the kingdom of heaven meets life in the real world

- The big question: what do you value the most? (v19-24)

Two further reasons to trust our Father and not fret:

- He cares for things that are less valuable (v25-30)

- He gives us something that is more valuable (v31-33)

Conclusion: Therefore worry about living today with your eyes fixed on heaven (v34)

For further discussion

- Is worry a universal human experience? Why?
- v19-24: How is worry connected to the treasure that we value the most?
- What is your treasure? Do you have two masters? What effect does it have to try and serve two masters? What is the antidote?
- v25-30: How does Jesus argue from the lesser thing to the greater thing in these verses? What is the significance of Jesus drawing attention to the beauty of the lily in the way that God cares for it?
- What is God promising to us in v25-30? What should we expect? What about the hard cases where it looks like he may not have kept this promise, e.g. Christians in poverty in the third world, or suffering persecution under ISIS?
- v31-33: What does it mean to seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness?
- How do these verses apply to the considerable effort and worry that seems to go hand in hand with many occupations and jobs as well as our home lives? Does Jesus just mean we should all relax a bit and take life less seriously, or is there more to this?