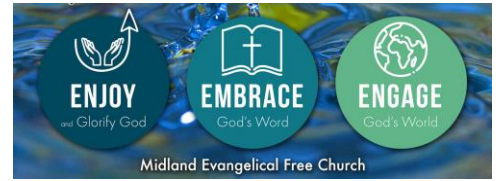




Life Group Questions
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Date: 5-16-2021

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-34

Vision

- We aspire to be a Gospel-centered family where everyone we encounter moves closer to Jesus every day.

Mission

- We enjoy and glorify God, embrace His Word, and engage the world. Led by the Spirit, everyone welcomes, plugs in, and reaches out.

Theme:

What do you believe is the main point of Matthew 6:19-34?

What is the key verse?

How would you summarize the main theme in a single sentence? ⁱ

How does that theme connect with our Mission?



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Matthew 6:19–34 (ESV)

Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

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!

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.

Do Not Be Anxious

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. 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.



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Context

Who wrote this Gospel?

What did this writer do for a living prior to following Jesus?

Why might these topics be of particular interest or importance to him?

The Heart

Heart = The Epicenter of One's Being

Throughout Scripture, the *heart* refers to the center of one's being, involving one's emotions, reason, AND will.

Crossway Bibles, The ESV Study Bible (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 1832.

The heart is the center of the personality, and it controls the intellect, emotions, and will.

Tom Constable, Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible (Galaxie Software, 2003; 2003), Mt 6:19.

How does Matthew 6:21 connect to the main theme of this passage?

How does Matthew 6:21 connect to the first "E" in our mission?

How does Matthew 6:21 connect to 1 Timothy 6:10?

What is the issue addressed in both – is it material or other?

If other, what?

The Master

Please describe the type of boss "Master" you would prefer.

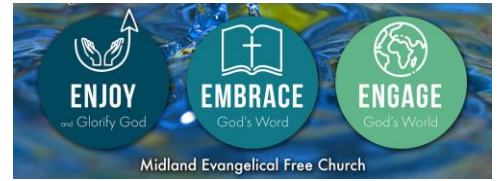
What two bosses does Matthew 6:24 list?

Please describe the qualitative differences between the two.

Please describe the qualitative differences in the working experience between the two.



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Solomon (Matt. 6:29)

Who was Solomon?

How rich was Solomon?

How did he acquire so much wealth?

What happened to Solomon's heart?

Matthew 6:29 – What then does Jesus mean when he says that not even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these?

Children of God

Matthew 6:32 –

Who does the term *Gentiles* refer too? Is it solely ethnic? What else could the term "Gentiles" refer too?

How should being a child versus being Gentile effect one's emotions when it comes to provision?

How does God treat his children (Matt. 7:7-11)?



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Rewards

What motivates you?

Do you think it is "okay" to live for rewards?

Can you recall any Bible verses that speak to this? Please see below for a hint. ⁱⁱ

What is our reward?

1 Peter 1 - What is Peter's term for our reward?

How does Peter describe our reward?

The Kingdom

Matthew 6:33

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

What is the Kingdom of God?ⁱⁱⁱ

Is the Kingdom of God only physical?

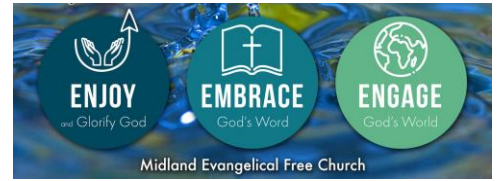
Is the Kingdom of God only spiritual?

How does one seek the Kingdom of God and righteousness?

Is "seek first the kingdom of God" a one-and-done process? Can one have "sought" the kingdom of God and his righteousness and mark it off their list? If not, how does one "seek" it?



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Money

Getting down to brass tacks:

- After all this teaching about what to seek first, who will provide for us, what we most value ("Enjoy"), please describe how this will impact our spending?
- What adjustment(s) do you need to make in order to make a consistent difference over time?
- What would that look like for you over the next:
 - Two Weeks?
 - Month?
 - 3 months?
 - 6 months?
 - Year?

ⁱ Matthew 6:16-24 Exclusive Devotion

Summary: Jesus uses three analogies (**treasures**, **eyes**, and **masters**) to communicate the point that people who follow him must do so with exclusive devotion.

Jesus draws attention to what people prize above all else.

Leon Morris, *The Gospel According to Matthew* (Grand Rapids, Mich.; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1992), 152.

Key Verse: Matthew 6:24



ii Reward!

Colossians 3:24 (ESV)

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

1 Peter 5:4 (ESV)

⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Revelation 22:12 (ESV)

¹² **“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.**

1 Peter 5:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

Hebrews 11:26 (ESV)

²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

Some Christians believe that it is always carnal to desire and to work for eternal rewards, but Jesus commanded us to do precisely that (cf. 1 Cor. 3:11–15; 2 Cor. 5:10).

Tom Constable, Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible (Galaxie Software, 2003; 2003), Mt 6:19.

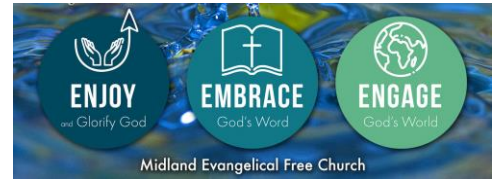
Jesus not only saw nothing wrong with his followers working for reward; **he went so far as to command it**. The New Testament clearly encourages it (e.g., 1 Cor. 3:10–15; 9:24–27). Jesus' words in the last few verses of the Bible emphasize it: **“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done”** (Rev. 22:12).

(New Testament passages that expand on this concept, including specific examples of behaviors that have eternal significance, include Matt. 5:12, 30, 46; 6:6, 15; 10:42; 16:24–27; 19:21, 27–29; 25:40; Luke 12:16–21; 2 Cor. 4:17; 1 Tim. 6:13–19.)

Stuart K. Weber, vol. 1, Matthew, Holman New Testament Commentary; Holman Reference (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 85-86.

THE WEIGHT OF GLORY

If you asked twenty good men today what they thought the highest of the virtues, nineteen of them would reply, **Unselfishness**. But if you had asked almost any of the great Christians of old, he would have replied, **Love**. You see what has happened? **A negative term has been substituted for a positive**, and this is of more than philological importance. The negative idea of Unselfishness carries with it the suggestion not primarily of securing good things for others, but of going without them ourselves, as if **our abstinence** and not **their happiness** was the important point. I do not think this is the Christian virtue of Love. The New Testament has lots to say about **self-denial**, but not about self-denial **as an end in itself**. We are told to deny ourselves and to take up our crosses in order that



we may follow Christ; and **nearly every description of what we shall ultimately find if we do so contains an appeal to desire**. If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly to hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion has crept in from Kant and the Stoics and is no part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider **the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels**, it would seem that **Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak**. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.¹

¹ C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory: And Other Addresses* (New York: HarperOne, 2001), 25–26.

iii **THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

1. **a gift to be received in the present** and
2. **a realm to be entered in the future** (see Hooker, 239).

Walter W. Wessel and Mark L. Strauss, “Mark,” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Matthew–Mark (Revised Edition)*, ed. Tremper Longman III and David E. Garland, vol. 9 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 862.

the Kingdom of God and.... **Jesus are integrally bound**

The transfiguration isa theophany which reveals the powerful coming of the Kingdom of God.-
See on Mark [1:14 f.](#); [4:11](#).

William L. Lane, *The Gospel of Mark*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1974), 317.

“The Kingdom of God” =

- God’s **RIGHT** to determine my will and my life, & His guarantee to determine the glorious final outcome of all things.
- God’s sovereign ownership over all of His creation.
- Vindication

Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

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

- So that his perfect rule would be established in our hearts in preparation
- For the establishment of his perfect rule here on earth