

# THE KINGDOM-DRIVEN LIFE #15

## The Book of Matthew

### Little Faith

#### I. Review

##### A. Jesus' Teaching about Fear, Worry and Finances

1. In Matthew 6:19-34, the focus is on worry and fear and how it's all connected to finances-money, possessions and material things. Jesus says:

- a. Lay up treasure in heaven, not on earth-our money locates our heart
- b. How we see "things" affects every part of our life
- c. We can't be a slave of God and a slave to "things"

2. Jesus is pointing out to us that worry is sin because it is not of faith.

3. Worry and fear are God's "alarm clock" to wake us up to the fact that something's wrong!

4. The "Therefore", (6:25) is based on what He just said....

**"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. *For this reason* (*"therefore" in KJV*) I say to you, do not be anxious (*"do not worry" in NKJV, NIV, TEV translations*) for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing? "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? "And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his life's span? "And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these. "But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more do so for you, O ye of *little faith?* (KJV-"O ye of little faith") "Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?' "For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. "Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."**

**Matthew 6:24-34 NASB**

## B. “Little Faith”

1. Jesus says that the heart of the problem when we worry and live in fear is that we have “little faith”. So, what is “little faith”?
2. First, it is not “no faith”! Jesus is addressing His *disciples*, those who had believed on Him and were following Him. (See Matthew 5:1-2, where we see all of Matthew 5-6-7 is addressed to His *disciples*)
3. This applies to all of us today when we truly believe in Jesus but live our daily lives with anxiety, worry and fear!
4. There are 3 primary problem with “Little Faith”:
  - a. It stops short
  - b. It doesn't think
  - c. It can't see the Kingdom

## II. Three Things to See about “Little Faith”

### A. “Little Faith” Stops Short

1. We cannot be saved without faith, (Ephesians 2:8-10); we can't please God without faith, (Hebrews 11:6) There is nothing wrong with “faith”....but “little faith” allows room for worry and fear.
2. Think of “little faith” as a faith that stops short of God's intent. “Little faith” is faith enough to save us from our sins, but not enough to save us from fear and worry!

**These people have faith, but it is insufficient faith...Our Lord is speaking here about Christian people who have onl saving faith, and who tend to stop at that....and rob themselves of so much in this life.**

**David Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Studies in The Sermon on the Mount***

3. This is the great failure of American Christianity in the last century-an emphasis on “personal salvation” from sins and from damnation as the “end all-be all” of the Gospel!

**...this type of faith is confined solely to the question of the salvation of our souls, and it does not go beyond that. It does not extend to the whole of life and to everything in life...(who) do not seem to have any faith with regard to the every-day affairs of life and living in this world.**

**David Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Studies in The Sermon on the Mount***

4. We can only come to Christ with true faith, but faith that stops there is “little faith”.
5. It is distinctly possible to believe **on** the Lord Jesus Christ, but that we do not believe **in** Him. In other words, we can believe **on** Him for the salvation of our souls, but at the same time not believe **in** Him when He says, “Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:30)
6. “Little faith” stops short. It means we are mastered **by** our circumstances instead of mastering **them**.

## **B. Second: “Little Faith” Fails to Think!**

1. We have “little faith” if we belong to the Lord but continue to worry about everyday things. The cure according to Jesus? The word for us today? **THINK!**
2. The trouble with many of us is that we worry instead of think! Lying awake at night and *being anxious all day about things is not thinking...it's worrying*.
3. There is a permeating lack of “thinking” going on in the church today. Otherwise, a terrible book like *The Shack* couldn't become a best-seller. Only a lack of clear thinking could allow good Christian people to fail to see the doctrinal fallacies and theological contradictions in a book that presents a wrong-headed view of the very nature of the Godhead!\*

\*There is a wealth of rebuttal available regarding how bad this book really is. If you're interested, you might begin your investigation here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uek4l5VzcNc&feature=email>

<http://www.crosswalk.com/books/11575218/>

There are some valuable things in the book. I am sure the author was well intended. But there are also good things and good thoughts in many books from many different philosophers and even other religious systems. But as thinking Christians we need to judge such things holistically, not just piecemeal. *Caveat emptor!*

4. Jesus' solution to worry is to get us to **THINK**...He appeals to our minds, using classical styles of logic in His argument, all deigned to appeal to us to **THINK**:

a. *From the “greater to the lesser”*, the form of argument whereby we see some great thing is true, thereby a lesser related thing must be true.

**Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?  
Matthew 6:25b**

- If God gave me my very life, will He not provide whatever it takes to sustain it? In Creation, did not God make all provision (of

food, water, etc.) for all His creatures even before He made the creatures themselves?

- Therefore, (as logic goes), if we really believe God saved us, won't He do everything else for us, too?
- This is the logical style of the Apostle Paul:

**But God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. *Much more then*, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.**

**Romans 5:8-9 NLT**

b. Then, Jesus turns it around, arguing *from the "lesser to the greater"*.

**Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. If God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?**

**Excerpts from Matt 6:26-30 NLT**

- What's more transient than wildflowers? Doesn't God clothe them with beauty?
- What's more insignificant than the birds? Yet doesn't God feed them?
- *Therefore*, (as logic goes), how much more will he care for YOU?

The argument is very logical, very powerful, and reveals to us how little we really think on these things, choosing to worry instead!

*Review: So "little faith" stops short; fails to think; and finally, can't "see" the Kingdom!*

### **C. Third: "Little Faith" Can't See the Kingdom**

1. Testimony: "Is That All There Is?" Once the initial euphoria of salvation subsided, the old Peggy Lee song pretty well described my church life over the next year or two. (Full testimony given here is on podcast sermon: [www.cccaustin.com](http://www.cccaustin.com))

2. The "faith message" has its flaws, but at least we were taught how to seek to apply our faith and God's promises to the challenges of life like healing for our bodies and success for our business pursuits.

3. But the truth is that I didn't really "see" the Kingdom until ten years after being saved. Somebody must have prayed Paul's prayer for me:

***(We) cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;  
That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the  
spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:  
The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the  
hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,  
And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe,  
according to the working of his mighty power,  
Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead,  
Eph 1:16-20 KJV***

4. There's more to the Gospel than salvation! There is the "Gospel of the Kingdom"! (See Matthew 4:23; 9:35; 24:14; Mark 1:14)

5. This is what we're after in this series on "Kingdom-Driven Living".

### **III. The Kingdom of God**

#### **A. God's Total Answer for Man's Total Need**

This passage closes with one of the greatest commandments and promises in all of scripture:

**Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live right, and God will give you everything you need.  
Matthew 6:33 NLT**

#### **B. Summary of Matthew 6:24-33**

1. Jesus wants to deliver us not only from our sins, but from worry and fear.
2. This deliverance includes everyday living! Even what we eat, drink and wear is included.
3. It's a deliverance from "little faith":
  - That stops short
  - That won't think
  - That can't see the Kingdom!

**Our Father in heaven,**

**We ask your forgiveness for the sins of worry and fear...especially about material things...**

**We ask you to open the eyes of our understanding; help us to think, not worry...  
and give us fresh revelation**

**About the unlimited provision you have made for us that's way beyond forgiving our sins.**

**We purpose this day to seek your Kingdom in all things...first...and to live right...and to know**

**you will give us everything we need!**

**In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray...Amen!**