**Monday Evening Bible Study**

**November 7, 2022**

**Matthew 6:25–34**

**A passage about our preoccupations, worry, basic needs, and trusting God’s provision.**

**Immediate Context**

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| Matthew 3:13-17 The Baptism of Jesus | Matthew 6:22-23 The Sound Eye |
| Matthew 4:1-11 The Temptation of Jesus | Matthew 6:24 Serving Two Masters |
| Matthew 4:12-17 Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee | **Matthew 6:25-34 Do Not Worry** |
| Matthew 4:18-17 Jesus Calls the First Disciples | Matthew 7:1-5 Judging Others |
| Matthew 4:23-25 Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People | Matthew 7:6 Profaning the Holy |
| Matthew 5:1-11 Beatitudes | Matthew 7:7-11 Ask, Search, Knock |
| Matthew 5:13-16 Salt and Light | Matthew 7:12 The Golden Rule |
| Matthew 5:17-20 The Law and the Prophets | Matthew 7:13-14 The Narrow Gate |
| Matthew 5:21-26 Concerning Anger | Matthew 7:15-20 A Tree and Its Fruit |
| Matthew 5:27-30 Concerning Adultery | Matthew 7:21-23 Concerning Self-Deception |
| Matthew 5:31-32 Concerning Divorce | Matthew 7:24-29 Hearers and Doers |
| Matthew 5:33-37 Concerning Oaths | Matthew 8:1-4 Jesus Cleanses a Leper |
| Matthew 5:38-42 Concerning Retaliation | Matthew 8:5-13 Jesus Heals a Centurion’s Servant |
| Matthew 5:43-48 Love for Enemies | Matthew 8:14-17 Jesus heals Many at Peter’s House |
| Matthew 6:5-15 Concerning Prayer | Matthew 8:18-22 Would-Be Followers of Jesus |
| Matthew 6:16-18 Concerning Fasting | Matthew 8:23-27 Jesus Stills the Storm |
| Matthew 6:19-21 Concerning Treasures | Matthew 8:28-34 Jesus Heals the Gadarene Demoniacs |

**Helpful Scriptures**

**Psalm 37:1–7 (NRSV)**

1 Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, 2 for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb. 3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security. 4 Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. 6 He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday. 7 Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

**Psalm 39:1–5 (NRSV)**

1 I said, “I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue; I will keep a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence.” 2 I was silent and still; I held my peace to no avail; my distress grew worse, 3 my heart became hot within me. While I mused, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue: 4 “Lord, let me know my end, and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. 5 You have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight. Surely everyone stands as a mere breath.

**Psalm 136:23–26 (NRSV)**

23 It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever; 24 and rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever; 25 who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever. 26 O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Psalm 145:13–20 (NRSV)**

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. 14 The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. 15 The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. 16 You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. 17 The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. 18 The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. 19 He fulfills the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them. 20 The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

**Psalm 147:7–11 (NRSV)**

7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre. 8 He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills. 9 He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry. 10 His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner; 11 but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

**1 Kings 10:4–7 (NRSV)**

4 When the queen of Sheba had observed all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, 5 the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his valets, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her. 6 So she said to the king, “The report was true that I heard in my own land of your accomplishments and of your wisdom, 7 but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. Not even half had been told me; your wisdom and prosperity far surpass the report that I had heard.

**Matthew 10:29–31 (NRSV)**

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 And even the hairs of your head are all counted. 31 So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

**Luke 12:22–34 (NRSV)**

22 He said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! 25 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?26 If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 28 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! 29 And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. 30 For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. 32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Philippians 4:4–7 (NRSV)**

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**1 Peter 5:7 (NRSV)**

7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

This passage needs to be seen as a link to Moses speech in Deuteronomy where Moses is asking the people to choose life over death; following God’s will and ways which leads to blessings and not curses. And all these things will be given to you as well.

**Key Words/Phrases**

**Worry** –μεριμνάω – *“to be anxious, concerned, troubled, worry about, to care, take thought of”*

**But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness** – ζητεῖτε δὲ πρῶτον τὴν βασιλείαν [τοῦ θεοῦ] καὶ τὴν δικαιοσύνην αὐτοῦ – Strive – *“seek after, look for, strive to find;”* Righteousness – *that which brings us into harmony with the will of God, as a pure gift from God, like everything connected with the kingdom.*