

THE BIG IDEA: When we know who to trust, we'll know what to do.

The Take-Off

Obviously these are unprecedented times - none of us were taught in school what to do in the middle of a worldwide pandemic. Not parents, not teachers, not pastors. It's a great time to become experts in grace, for sure!

I literally went to bed one night last week and when I woke up I felt like we were all living in some apocalyptic movie Am I the only one?

As I prayed and taught God and wisdom I kept thinking the same thing over and over: "God, Your word speaks to it all, so tell us what we need to know."

Of all the things we don't know, we know that it does, and He will.

We know that we live by faith and not by fear

That we're ruled by peace and not by panic

That these are the times for the church to rise up and shine like a city set on a hill

These times call for courage - "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Don't be afraid; don't be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

These times call for peace - "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Don't let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

These times call for trust - "They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord." (Psalm 112:7)

And not only do those passages speak right to where we are, but so does the next section of the Sermon on the Mount. For anyone who may have heard that the Bible isn't relevant, let me ask you a question.

What is everyone concerned about right now? Their money - or resources - and their future.

The last half of Matthew 6 speaks to both. That's how relevant God's word is.

In the middle of a 2020 pandemic, we can open the pages of a timeless book and find relevant truth.

I'm going to read all of Matthew 6:19-34 (NIV) and then we'll talk through it, first with the Big Idea and then with how it speaks to the 2 greatest concerns of most people right now.

1. Trusting God with our treasures (vv. 19-24)

- a. Let me state the Big Idea before we get too far into this, ok?
- b. When we know who to trust, we'll know what to do.
- c. That can apply to a lot of different areas of our lives, but this last half of Matthew 6 speaks directly to the 2 areas on most of our minds: money and future (but we'll call them treasures and tomorrows)
- d. We can't read these verses and not be challenged about our level of trust and what (or who) it's placed in
- e. So to be even more specific, when we know who to trust, we'll know what to do with our treasures and our tomorrows
- f. Jesus deals with our treasures first and the most important truth is found in v. 21
- g. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
- h. In light of all that's happened in the last week, I'm not sure if there's amore relevant verse in all of the Bible than verse 19
- i. Treasure stored on earth is stored where moth and rust and little tiny viruses can destroy it
- j. Did you know that the COVID-19 coronavirus is only 140 nanometers in diameter?
- k. 714 of those little guys can fit across the width of a single hair
- l. Something that small is causing the end of the world as we know it!
- m. But only for those who picked the wrong storage for their treasures.
- n. Remember this: Your heart is tied today to wherever you put your treasure yesterday.
- o. If you bought stock in Google a year ago, you started checking Google stock prices a year ago.
- p. Over the next few verses Jesus talks about storage, eyes, and masters.
- q. Jesus is saying that where we store our treasures will change what we look at and who we listen to.
- r. We need to choose the right storage.
- s. Jesus is calling us to trust Him with our resources and we would say yes a lot faster if we knew what the future holds
- t. So Jesus addresses that next



2. Trusting God with our tomorrows (vv. 25-34)

- a. There is more in this section that we're going to unpack in this online setting, but let's cut to the chase and get right to the heart of the matter: Jesus mentions worry 6 times in 10 verses and specifically commands "do not worry" 3 times.
- b. I think it's safe to say that Jesus is dealing with our fear of the unknown.
- c. Sure, with all that's going on right now with the coronavirus in the world, it would be easy to wonder why Jesus thinks we shouldn't be worried about food and clothing.
- d. But we don't usually worry about today we survive today, we deal with today.
- e. But we usually worry about tomorrow and that's why Jesus said specifically in verse 34 not to.
- f. Instead of worrying about tomorrow, Jesus said to put Him first today.
- g. Put Jesus first and get the rest; put Jesus last and fail the test.

The Landing

Let me wrap this up with 2 statements that sum up what Jesus is teaching here:

- 1. Give to God today and your heart will be more connected to Him tomorrow.
- 2. Seek God today and your faith will be more effective for Him tomorrow.

See, it's all about what we do today.

How can we be a light for the kingdom in these crazy times? By focusing on today more than fretting about tomorrow. When we know who to trust, we'll know what to do with our treasures and our tomorrows. Let's pray.