

Jesus Teaches about Money, Worry, and Judging People

As Jesus continues his Sermon on the Mount, we notice a thread emerge in his teaching: stay focused on God's kingdom first. The next three teachings in his Sermon on the Mount remain as practical and relevant to our daily lives today as they were for the disciples. Money, worry, and judgment have long been areas of vulnerability in our human nature. Jesus warns us to keep our priorities straight, lest money, worry, or our judgment of others lead us away from God. Join us as we study Jesus' caution and instruction so that we might keep ourselves ever aligned with God's kingdom priorities.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

Before listening, reflect:

- Which is the greatest area of weakness for you: money/greed, worry/trust, judging people?
- What do you think it means to seek God's kingdom?

As Jesus continues his Sermon on the Mount, he unpacks what it means to have a kingdom perspective in all areas of our lives. His teaching dwells on three particular areas of human vulnerability: money, worry, and judgment. While Jesus cautions that a worldly mindset toward these things can lead us away from God, he offers instruction on how to regard them with a kingdom mindset that keeps God first in our lives.

Listen: [Jesus Teaches about Money, Worry, and Judging People](#)



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READ [Matthew 6:19-7:5](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

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- In segment 1, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney discuss Jesus' warning to not let money become our master. Scott reminds us that gratitude is a valuable litmus test for checking our hearts for greed. Recall Darrell's comment about gratitude: "Gratitude has a long memory. It remembers what God has already done, and what God is currently providing." Think about your life. Nurture a grateful heart by spending some intentional time reflecting on what God has done in your life, in the life of your family, and how he currently provides for you. Close your time with prayer, giving God thanks and praise for his care and provision.
- What do you need to trust God with in your life?

- Are there situations in which you need to take a step back for self-examination and prayer, before judging carefully with humility and understanding? What does it look like to stand under the shadow of grace, and remember forgiveness and love, as you engage in these situations?
- As you listened to Darrell and Scott discuss Jesus' teachings on money, worry, and judging people, were there any particular points that surprised you, offered new insights, gave you something to think about, or weighed heavy on your heart? Make note of these points in a journal, or if studying in a group setting, share and discuss them.

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Matthew 20:1-16](#), [1 Timothy 6:6-10](#), [Philippians 4:10-13](#), [Proverbs 3](#)

CONCLUSION

As he closes this episode, Scott says, "So how might we sum up the part of the Sermon on the Mount that we looked at today on *Groundwork*? Seek first the kingdom of God, right? Keep the kingdom and keep the kingdom's king first in our hearts always. Don't let money eclipse God; don't let greed eclipse God; don't let worry eclipse God. Make God all in all."

Consider your reflections above. Do you feel convicted and need to repent? Where do you need to grow? Where do you need the Holy Spirit's help? Close your time of reflection in prayer. Give thanks for Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount and its continued relevance in our lives today. Talk to God about your reflections and turn Scott's statement into your prayer.

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