

Matt. 6:31-33

“Seek ye first”

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

“Be no more distracted and torn in pieces with anxious and unbelieving thoughts saying How shall we be provided for during the remainder of our lives?” (Benson Commentary, <http://biblehub.com/commentaries/matthew/6-31.htm>).

*Take no thought* in Greek is *merimnao* which means “to be anxious; to be troubled with cares, to be anxious about nothing, about sustaining life, about a thing, about what may be on the morrow” (Strong’s, 3309, <http://biblehub.com/thayers/3309.htm>).

“Every verse speaks at once to the understanding, and to the heart. We will not therefore indulge these unnecessary, these useless, these mischievous cares. We will not borrow the anxieties and distresses of the morrow, to aggravate those of the present day. Rather we will cheerfully repose ourselves on that heavenly Father, who knows we have need of these things; who has given us the life, which is more than meat, and the body, which is more than raiment. And thus instructed in the philosophy of our heavenly Master, we will learn a lesson of faith and cheerfulness from every bird of the air, and every flower of the field” (*John Wesley’s Notes*, Accordance, Bible Study Collection (software)).

“Be not anxious.’ Our Lord regarded cheerfulness and joy, and the absence of care and anxiety, as the mark of a true Christian who puts his trust in God” (Dummelow 649).

32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

“Dibelius points out (*Sermon on the Mount*, pp. 85), other Hellenistic theologians consider thanksgiving the only appropriate prayer to God, while Jesus quite frankly bids his disciples pray for daily bread. The true contrast is between the confident reliance on God exemplified in 6:11, and the anxious ambition of worldlings” (IB 7.323).

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

*Seek* in Greek is *zeteo* (2212) which means “to seek in order to find; universally and absolutely, to seek (ie. in order to find out) by thinking, meditating, reasoning; to inquire into, to seek after, seek for, aim at, strive after, desire, endeavor, to require, demand, crave” (Strong’s, 2212, <http://biblehub.com/thayers/2212.htm>).

*Righteousness* is *dikaiousune* (1343) in Greek which means “the state of him who is such as he ought to be, righteousness, the doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain to a state approved of God, integrity, virtue, purity of life, uprightness, correctness in thinking, feeling, and acting” (Thayer 1343, Accordance).

“Take no thought. Then he gives us the priority equation, ‘see ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.’ In other words, is what we eat, drink or wear of no significance? They are natural and normal on earth. He’s not wiping them all out as if it were a branch of some ascetic cult. But rather, ‘seek God first and all these things will be added.’ Added. The heavenly law of mathematics is priority first and all those things that we would normally take thought of would come into our experience naturally. Instead of wasting so much good mental time, taking thought, worrying, and being anxious, we spend that same time seeking the kingdom of God, and all those things come naturally as a result of that.” (Crisler, *Gospels* 1.37.)

Sources:

Accordance 10, Bible Study Collection (software for the Mac)

Benson, Rev. Joseph. *Commentary of the Old and New Testaments*. 1857. Cited by biblehub.com. [<http://biblehub.com/commentaries/matthew/6-31.htm>], Accessed on August 26, 2015.

Crisler, B. Cobbey. *The Gospels: Book of Matthew*. Vol. 1. Montecito: Crisler Biblical Institute, 2003.

Wesley, John. *Wesley’s Notes on the Bible*. Cited by biblehub.com [URL of the specific screen, beginning with <http://>] Accessed on [month, day, year]. [Example: 11.11.12]

*The Interpreter’s Bible*. Ed. George Arthur Buttrick et al. 12 vols. New York: Abingdon, 1953.

Thayer, Joseph Henry, trans. *The New Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1981. Cited by Accordance, Bible Study Collection (software).