

# The Sermon Connection

## Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

Volume 3 Issue 44



The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

### Pathway to Contentment "God or Money?" (Matthew 6:19-34) Calvin Lamar Brown, Sr. October 28, 2018

As part of our series on contentment, Calvin shared a message asking a BIG question: God or Money? He pointed out that it's not even Halloween yet, but retailers are heating up the offers for the Christmas shopping season. They are promising low prices, wide selections, and fast, free shipping. All of this is designed to help bring us contentment by staying current with the latest trends and replacing our "old" 2017-18 version of any given product. In response, millions of people are ready to forego Thanksgiving festivities to stand in line overnight for Black Friday deals, take on a second job to pay for Christmas shopping, and/or max out their credit cards to get their loved ones the very best. On a different, but similar timeline, anxious 2019 high school grads are applying to, and waiting to hear back from, their dream college. This is the college they believe will launch them into a lucrative career in the near future! Parents are taking out second mortgages and/or working second jobs, and kids are signing loan papers that will potentially keep them in debt for decades. If any level of contentment resides in these scenarios, then it is quickly diminished by the anxiety and worry that accompany them. Our "Pathway to Contentment" series is designed to give a biblical perspective on contentment...how to attain it and how to retain it.

Calvin showed how Jesus lays out several truths in Matthew 6:19-34 to give us perspective and insights concerning contentment, and how to achieve and retain it. In verses 19-21, he probes our hearts by assessing our values. What we do reveals our values. Our values reveal our heart. Hence, the first question in the outline: "What Is Your Heart Set On?" Hopefully, the answer is, "My heart is set on my Heavenly Father and his priorities!"

Next, in verses 22-23, Jesus explains how our eyes (our focus) become a conduit to the heart (Proverbs 4:23). What one focuses on fills one's heart! Thus, the next question, "What Do You Focus On?" The correct answer is to have one's focus on kingdom priorities.

Calvin then showed that verse 24 explains that you might be able to work for two employers, but a slave is sole property of one master, which implies an exclusive owner who demands exclusive service. No gray area exists in this scenario, either you are committed to God or Money (Mammon, wealth, earthly pursuits, etc.). Jesus essentially poses the question, "To Whom Do You Belong?" He is emphatic you cannot serve two masters, namely, God and money. One must choose!

Finally, Jesus rationalizes to some extent why choosing God leads to contentment and the lack of worry. You see, because God is in ultimate control of the universe, He gives attention to even the simplest of things, such as flowers of the field and birds of the air. Consequently, how much more will he provide for those who look to him for provision? Of course, the option remains for one to serve money, which means that "worry" will be your provider. You'll spend your days worrying about today and every day in the future. A better way exists, however, in that Jesus' disciples don't know what tomorrow will bring, but the Father does. It takes a great deal of worry from us when we live that way daily.

E CHECK: EMBRACING INTIMACY WITH GOD

## **READING AND REFLECTION:**

Read Matthew 6:19-34. Reflect on the following immensely practical statements by Jesus and write out how each applies to your own life at this time:

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

“No one can serve two masters.”

“Which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”

“Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION:**

What Is Your Heart Set On? - vv. 19-21

If the kingdom, then what evidence is present in your life? If earthly things, then what needs to change?

What Do You Focus On? - vv. 6:22-23

If the kingdom, then what evidence is present in your life? If earthly things, then what needs to change?

To Whom Do You Belong? - v. 6:24

If our Heavenly Father, then what evidence is present in your life? If money, then what needs to change?

To Whom Will You Look For Provision: God Or Worry? - vv. 25-34

If our Heavenly Father, then what evidence is present in your life? If money, then what needs to change?

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTION:**

In your family or small group this week, discuss the idea of contentment. Are you content? What are the things that can lead to a lack of contentment and, therefore, worry in your lives? How do you change that?

## **KEY POINT:**

**Reverse the trend toward anxiety by looking around at what we have and what God has done and then say,**

**“Thank you.”**

## **RESOURCES:**

[One-Year New Testament Bible](#) (Available at the Information Table on Sunday mornings)

Become a part of one or more of the various Bible studies and small groups at Destiny Church.

The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn