



The Scramble

Matthew 6:25-34: ²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

“Stop scrambling. Start seeking what lasts.”

“A text without a context is just a pretext for what you want it to mean.” - Ben Witherington III

Matthew 6:19, 21, 24-25, 32-33: ¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. ²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life...³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

epizēteō: “run after”, carries the sense of *anxious pursuit* — chasing, striving, scrambling.

zēteō: “seek first”, it’s deliberate, directed pursuit.

Matthew 6:25, 32: ²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear.... ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

Food = alliance, access, influence, belonging

Clothing = identity, status, economic security, visible power.

1 Kings 3:5, 9, 11-13: “the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you... Solomon answered, “give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.” “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself,... I will give you a wise and discerning heart,... Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.

Matthew 6:33: ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

God’s kingdom is anywhere the generous, compassionate, and gracious rule of God is experienced.

God’s righteousness is how you and I to live out this kingdom ethic—a life that is generous, compassionate and gracious.

“your heavenly Father feeds them” – Matthew 6:26

“will he not much more clothe you” – Matthew 6:28

“is not life more than food and clothes” – Matthew 6:25

“are you not much more important” – Matthew 6:26

“your heavenly Father knows that you need them” – Matthew 6:32

What are you scrambling for?

All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.