Sermon end of Matthew 6

LAST WEEK WE TALKED ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO HAVE INTIMACY WITH GOD...AS HE WANTS TO HAVE WITH EVERYONE OF HIS CHILDREN COMING RIGHT OFF JESUS TEACHING US THE LORD'S PRAYER.....Our Father!

1. Intimacy comes through communion with God with PRAYER, STUDY OF HIS WORD, FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS AND WORSHIP...
2. If we don't have Intimacy with God, He is NOT our treasure...*For where your treasure is, your heart will follow* MATT 6:21
3. **JESUS IS GOING TO TEACH US TODAY** THAT FOCUSING ON GOD AS OUR "FIRST" PRIORITY IS THE CURE FOR ANXIETY!!!!!! ***ALL*** ANXIETY!!!!

QUESTION: HEART TO HEART?????

SO HOW can I discover MY PRIORITIES IS IN MY OWN LIFE RIGHT NOW?

1. **Do a budget or look at your budget and ask yourself, "What am I spending the most money on right now in order and see if I can find God in my Budget....** *I'm willing to bet that your spending will show you your* ***financial priorities*** *in your life...*
2. **Do an inventory of your time spent, say over the last week and ask yourself "Where did I spend the MOST time and write out a list of your priorities using that calendar** *I'm willing to bet that list will show you where your HEART....AND where your TREASURE IS.....*
3. **If you are sitting here feeling convicted with how little time we spend with God, I will be honest with you and tell you I am even MORE SO CONVICTED AS A PASTOR!!!!!**

    SO....I'm now working on making changes in my life to fix the shortcomings I found in my own scheldule...

AND if you are wondering WHY you resist spending more time with God, OR ashamed that your are NOT or don't have the desire...it's because your heart is NOT in it...and God's Word proves the point....

POINT: IF GOD IS OUR "FIRST" PRIORITY AND IF GOD IS OUR TREASURE, *OUR HEARTS WILL "ALWAYS" FOLLOW!*

1. **And if your heart is NOT into making God your first priority in life, *there is a solution*....Make a decision today to make more time with God and I guarantee you...YOUR HEART WILL FOLLOW.....**

MAKING GOD OUR FIRST PRIORITY LEADS INTO OUR CONTINUED TEXT TODAY and the Point Jesus is going to make..... *MAKING GOD OUR "FIRST" PRIORITY, IS THE CURE FOR ANXIETY*!!!!!!!..NOT drugs, NOT pills, NOT therapy, NOT counseling, NOT worrying BUT TRUSTING BY FAITH IN THE GOD OF SCRIPTURE who is seeking INTIMACY with ALL His Children!!!!!!

Matt. 6:25 *"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on.* ***Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?***

1. We all have "Physical Needs", but Jesus is redirecting our perceived greatest need to "Spiritual Needs", which is intimacy with God, who is our greatest TREASURE on this earth and in heaven....
2. If we keep our eye on Jesus Who multiplied the fish and bread, remembering HE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE, our FAITH WILL CONTINUE TO GROW as our reliance on God for "spiritual needs are met AND as He takes responsibility to meet our "physical" needs...sometimes in miraculous ways....(*Our Father.....give us THIS DAY our daily bread*)
   This places our dependence on God ***daily***, so we never forget God and His ***DAILY*** provision

26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are ***you*** *not worth much more than they?*

So just how much more valuable are you to God?

1. Are birds of the air born again of God spiritually?
2. Are birds of the air inheritors of the Kingdom of God?
3. Are birds of the air given eternal life?
4. Are birds of the air called Children of God?.....***NO BUT YOU ARE!!!!***

SO IF WE CAN TRUST GOD FOR ETERNAL LIFE, surely we can trust Him for our daily needs, for our safety, from wars and this crazy world we live in without worrying ☺

27 "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?
YOU CAN'T.....In fact God has already predetermined to the day how long you will live on this earth.....

For those who have cared for loved ones and worried that you might do something to shorten their life or missed something that might have kept them alive longer, God has already taken that worry away.....

Psa. 139 *14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; 16 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;* ***And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them****. 17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You*

28 "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, 29 yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.

Steve: Explain Solomon

30 "But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? ***You of little faith!*** *31*

Why is Jesus challenging our FAITH when we worry? Because worrying is a LACK OF FAITH IN GOD!!!!

A. **WE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT BY JESUS TO PRAY**...."Give us this day our daily bread...." So Jesus is teaching us to trust in God for the smallest to the GREATEST things....**BECAUSE** He is Lord over ALL THINGS! AMEN?

B. BECAUSE, Faith is a NOUN AND a VERB!

I. **As a NOUN**, it is what saves us when we place FAITH in Jesus

2. **As a VERB**, it is what we live by as we are expected to grow in our faith the more time we spend with God *experiencing HIS FAITHFULNESS*

C. **Without Faith it is impossible to please God-**It builds our intimacy w/God

D. **We are challenged Biblically** to Walk by Faith and ***NOT by sight***

E. Faith is FRUIT produced by daily surrender to the Holy Spirit

F. **Faith is a MUSCLE and God is our personal trainer** as FAITH grows through the test and trials we all have come to love in James One.... ☺

G. **Faith builds dependence and reliance on God our Father** and teaches us the value of putting our flesh to death daily, as we walk in the Spirit crucifying our flesh daily to the glory of Christ Jesus

H. Faith is the key to becoming a mature disciple of Jesus

"Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' 32 "For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; ***for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.***

NEWSFLASH: God knows WHAT you need *before* you ask Him....And Jesus already taught us this truth right before teaching us the Lord's Prayer...(6:8)

QUESTION: So why even ask God for anything if He knows what we are going to ask Him BEFORE we ask Him in prayer?

ANSWER: Because when we ask God in prayer BY FAITH, we KNOW God hears us so, *when* He answers our prayers, ***it builds greater FAITH, TRUST and INTIMACY with Him*** and we are reminded, that everything we have, comes from the mighty hand of our almighty God!

33 "But seek first His kingdom (His will) *and His righteousness* (Righteousness of Christ, the ONLY righteousness who alone is righteous, perfect and good)*,* ***and all these things will be added to you****.*

EVERYTHING FLOWS FROM JESUS*, The Creator, the Sustainer, The Alpha and Omega, Beginning and the End in who all of Creation is held together by the power of HIS WORD.....*

IN OTHER WORDS: Make God your FIRST LOVE, Your FIRST PRIORITY, Your FIRST and FINEST TREASURE and you will have nothing ever to worry about!!!!!!!!

QUESTION: When we seek after the Kingdom of God...AND PERSONNAL INTIMACY WITH THE FATHER, THE SON JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT...PERHAPS BEGINNING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER AS TAUGHT TO US BY JESUS....(THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN....WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR HEART?)....

ANSWER: IT BECOMES TRANSFORMED!!!!

AND, isn't this the WHOLE point of the sermon on the mount, to see things from God's perspective as Kingdom citizens and learn to have the heart of Christ? ☺

Matt. 6:34 *"So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

FOR ANY OF YOU WHO WORRY, LET ME SHARE MY LIFE VERSE WITH YOU SINCE I HAVE HAD AN AXIETY DISORDER FOR OVER 40 YEARS....

I encourage you to MEDITATE on the Word of God with me....

In my life it has cured ANY fear I have faced.....*because there is NO FEAR IN JESUS! ☺*

Phil. 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing,* ***but*** *in everything by prayer and supplication* ***with thanksgiving*** *let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* ***Phil. 4:8*** *Finally, brethren,* ***whatever is true****, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. 9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*