



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Life Group Notes – 3rd April 2022

How to unhurry: Simplicity

Please visit the LCC website to listen to the talk or read the transcript if available.

Matthew 6:24-34 Treasures in heaven

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, 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 labour or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour 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.

Note: This is the NIV2011 version of the text – it would be helpful to compare it with other translations.

Comment

Very few people blatantly claim to seek material wealth and possessions – more often we talk about having just enough to be comfortable and secure. But how comfortable do we need to be? UK citizens are amongst the most wealthy people to have ever lived on the planet. Yet Jesus actually describes wealth as *deceitful* (Matt 13v22) because along with material wealth and possessions come worries and unfulfillment. John Mark Comer points out that v24 is the only occasion that Jesus actually names a false god: Money (literally *Mammon*) Serving Mammon, wealth or call it 'financial security' can easily become a religion which can deceive us all, because we are easily susceptible to manipulation, advertising and the desire to accumulate. So what is the answer? Jesus suggests we need to firstly recognise the truth that *more stuff = more worries*. Instead as we learn to rely on the Lord for our provision, this kind of living keeps the Lord very close and we discover he is *Jehovah Jireh*, our provider. Secondly we need to learn the spiritual discipline of decluttering and downsizing. Like a kind of fasting, sorting out our accumulated clobber can be spiritually cleansing and can help others in need if we support charity shops or those in need. J John suggests we stick to the rule 'Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without!' Thirdly instead of accumulating stuff 'just in case' Jesus says we can appreciate the free things in life. He describes the beauty of the birds and the flowers. They are free to appreciate and their beauty is to be enjoyed in the here and now, living in the moment, not to be stored up and hoarded. When it comes to abundant spiritual life, less is more.

Questions

1. Are you a hoarder or a minimalist? What drives your decisions to buy the things you do?
2. How can we resist being captive to a Western mindset of accumulation, comfort and security?
3. In what ways can money become our master instead of God? How can we reverse this?
4. What does it mean for you to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness?
5. How can we make our lives a lot simpler? How could you physically and spiritually declutter?