

Adult Sunday School Lesson
Nassau Bay Baptist Church
May 2, 2021

Depending

Read Matthew 6:1-34.

This entire chapter is of one theme, one cloth, one reality—the competition in our souls between stuff/people we depend upon and God.

The center of this chapter comes late, in verse 24: “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Summative Idea

The summative idea Jesus is developing is that we are ever in a conflict between two. We always are choosing one or the other.

The One is God. We choose Him (or not) in thousands of ways, but these ways can be summed up in the choice we make contrary to God.

That is the other. We know the other as Satan, but our choice is seldom presented that way. In fact, our choice appears to be many vs the One. But Jesus is telling us differently. He is telling us that any choice contra-God is a choice pro-Satan.

So as we read this chapter, we do well to keep the *conflict between the two* in our thoughts.

Headings

In my New King James Version Bible, Matthew 6 includes seven headings. Let’s list them here:

1. Do Good to Please God
2. The Model Prayer
3. Fasting to Be Seen Only by God
4. Lay Up Treasures in Heaven
5. The Lamp of the Body
6. You Cannot Serve God and Riches
7. Do Not Worry

(Though this chapter is a continuation of the Sermon on the Mount, we are going to accept this chapter division, so that we do not have to build out the entire sermon.)

These sections are sequential and build from one to another. So let’s start with the brackets, the beginning and the ending of the chapter.

Beginning

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.” Matthew 6:1

So, charitable deeds are to be done privately and quietly, not to be seen.

Ending

“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” Matthew 6:34

So, do not worry.

What is the Connection?

Between showing off your charitable works and worry?

The answer is _____.

This word is a synonym for faith. Faith, (*pisteuo*) in the New Testament, is a verb that can be used in a noun form (such as *pistis*). “To believe” is not a complete definition of faith. Neither is “to trust.”

It means “to throw myself wholly upon something in such a way that I do not even think about whether that something will be and do what I expect it to be and to do.”

When we talk about faith in God, we can adjust the definition appropriately: “to throw myself wholly upon Christ, the Chief Cornerstone, in such a way that I do not even think about whether Jesus will be and do what He has promised to be and to do.”

The Question

The question of this chapter is “Upon whom/what do I depend?”

The Sequence of Development

Let’s look at what Jesus is developing in this chapter.

Read vv. 1-4.

“Do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen of them,” rather do them in secret.

Question: Upon whom/what do you depend?

Answer: *Upon yourself/others or upon your Father who sees in secret.*

Read vv. 5-6.

Do not pray so you can be seen of men, rather go into your room.

Question: Upon whom/what do you depend?

Answer: *Upon yourself/others or upon your Father who sees in secret.*

Read v. 7-8.

Do not use vain repetitions when you pray, rather use few words.

Question: Upon whom/what do you depend when you use repetitions?

Answer: *Upon yourself/others or upon your Father who already knows.*

Read vv. 9-13.

Pray "Our Father in heaven . . . For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

Question: Upon whom/what do you depend?

Answer: *Upon your Father in heaven.*

May Your name be holy . . .

Your Kingdom come . . .

Your will be done . . .

(You, please,) give to us each day what we need . . .

(You, please,) forgive us . . . as long as we forgive

(You, please,) do not lead us into temptation

(You, please,) deliver us from evil (one)

For the Kingdom and the power and the glory are Yours forever.

Read vv. 14-15.

14. If you forgive . . .

Question: Upon whom/what do you depend?

Answer: *Upon your heavenly Father.*

15. If you do not forgive . . .

Question: Upon whom/what do you depend?

Answer: *Upon yourself.*

Read vv. 16-18.

Fast secretly rather than for show.

Question: Upon whom/what do you depend?

Answer: *Upon yourself/others or upon your Father.*

Read vv. 19-21.

Lay up treasures in Heaven rather than on earth.

Question: Upon whom/what do you depend?

Answer: *Upon yourself or upon your Father.*

Read vv. 22-23.

Maintain a singular and clear focus on the Light rather than upon the darkness of your treasures.

Question: Upon whom/what do you depend?

Answer: *Upon yourself or upon your Father in Heaven.*

Read v. 24.

You cannot be a slave both to God and to the money-god.

Question: Upon whom/what do you depend?

Answer: *Upon God or upon the money-god (Satan)/the worldly treasure in which you trust. Not both.*

Read vv. 25-34.

Depend solely upon God by seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness, rather than worrying.

Question: Upon whom/what do you depend?

Answer: *Upon God who is able to supply all your need or upon yourself.*

What God Promises to Provide Without My Help

What I call “my help,” God simply sees as my obedience, seeking His Kingdom and His Righteousness.

1. Life!
2. Food
3. Drink
4. Clothing
5. Height
6. Tomorrow
7. Care in the midst of today’s trouble