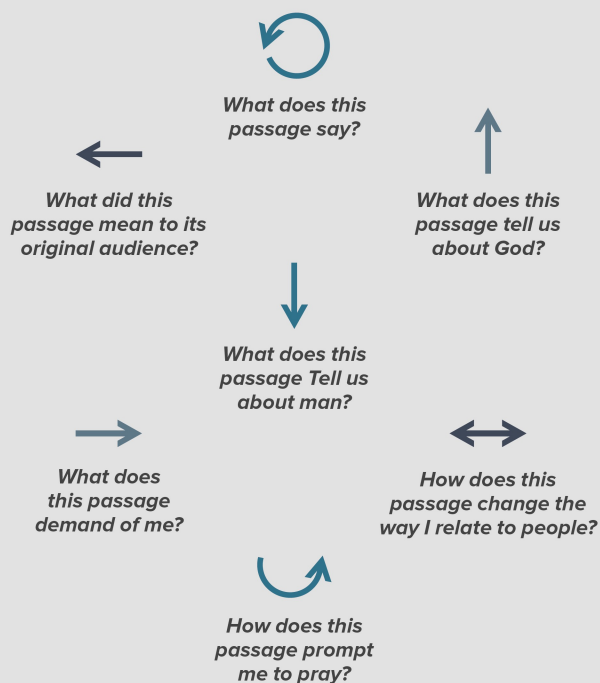


DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One

MATTHEW 6:25

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught about a number of practical issues related to everyday life. He taught the gathered crowd that they were to make the choice not to worry. In fact, it is a command that we refuse worrying even today, instead choosing to trust in God to provide the things we need. Many times, we get caught up in the cares of the world—things like food, clothes, entertainment, grades, and so on—and when we don't have the things we need, or when life doesn't go exactly the way we want, we get really upset. Here, Jesus teaches that our lives are so much more than these things, which are relatively unimportant when you look at the bigger picture.

➤ What do you tend to worry about?

➤ How important are these things in light of eternity?

Day Two

MATTHEW 6:26-27



Jesus was a master teacher. As He sat teaching beside the Sea of Galilee, He likely pointed to birds in sight of the listeners. He explained that the birds didn't sit around worrying all the time, and still they had all they needed. Birds find food by staying busy doing the things God intends they would do, and in response, He provides for their needs. The same applies to us. When we live according to God's call on our lives, He will provide all we need. This doesn't mean our lives will be perfect. But we can know that for eternity, God will provide for our blessing.

➤ **With the time you have in a day, how much of it is spent doing the things you know you should be doing?**

➤ **How can we know that God will provide for our needs?**

Day Three

MATTHEW 6:28-30

We often worry about clothes. But the reason we spend so much of ourselves (resources and thoughts) on clothing is very different from those who heard Jesus teach. We are more concerned with fashion, but they were worried about keeping warm and safe. These people with Jesus were poor, and they often lacked basic day to day necessities. This is likely a different kind of worry than most of us experience in the US today. Still, Jesus taught that they didn't need to worry. The flowers were clothed with beauty, and though we may go without at times in this life, we are clothed in Jesus' righteousness and can know we have all we need for eternity when we trust in Jesus. Therefore, instead of worrying about the things of this world, we should concern ourselves with eternal matters.

➤ **Do you ever worry about what to wear? Why?**

➤ **Why is it so much more important that we worry about clothing ourselves in Jesus' righteousness?**

Day Four

MATTHEW 6:31-32

Worldly people worry about worldly things. Jesus says this clearly. However, many of us who profess to be Jesus' followers concern ourselves with the same things. As if it wasn't already clear, Jesus says it again—Don't worry. This is not simply a suggestion for those who want their lives to be a little better. This is a command for those who desire to follow Christ, honoring God with our lives. Faith in God is not simply believing in God, but sincere trust that leads to our living in the ways He calls us. Given our Father knows exactly what we need, genuine faith translates into our refusing to worry, knowing that He loves us and will provide what we need.

➤ **What do worldly people worry about?**

➤ **How is your life similar? Different?**

Day Five

MATTHEW 6:33-34



For those who seek after the things of the world, their lives will be characterized by worrying about worldly things. We shouldn't be like this. Instead, Jesus tells us that our hearts should be concerned, first and foremost, with the kingdom of God. The principle is pretty easy to understand, but not always as easy to live out. When we devote ourselves to living as God calls us—like Jesus—then He will provide all the things we need. So when we're tempted to worry, instead of focusing on the things causing us to worry, we should redirect our attention and energy to living for God. This has a way of not only resolving our anxieties, but building our faith.

➤ **How does your life show that kingdom purposes are your highest priority?**

➤ **How have you seen God provide when you pursue Him first?**