

Matthew 6:19-34 (NLT):

19 “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

22 “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. 23 But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

24 “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

25 “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

28 “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

31 “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

34 “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

Jeremiah 2:10-13 (NLT) -

10 “Go west and look in the land of Cyprus
go east and search through the land of Kedar.
Has anyone ever heard of anything
as strange as this?

11 Has any nation ever traded its gods for new ones,
even though they are not gods at all?

Yet my people have exchanged their glorious God
for worthless idols!

12 The heavens are shocked at such a thing
and shrink back in horror and dismay,”
says the Lord.

13 “For my people have done two evil things:

They have abandoned me—
the fountain of living water.

And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns
that can hold no water at all!

We are formed by our focus.

Study Guide

This last Sunday we started our Money's Wroth series by talking about how we cannot serve two masters and that we are formed by our focus. As you consider that, what stands out to you? Is there any part of your life where you feel that tension of trying to serve God and something else at the same time?

These areas of tension or conflict are often not overt or consciously considered. They are often subtle and unexamined, and they are also often the result of "inevitable compromises." As you think about your life, are there any areas where you feel like you have had to compromise on how you believe God has asked us to live because it was unavoidable? What are they and why does that compromise feel unavoidable?

Take a moment to read Luke 4:1-13. In this scripture we see Jesus being tempted to do things other than the way that God wanted them done. All these things would have met a physical need (hunger), or drawn attention to Jesus in dramatic ways, but ultimately Jesus rejects the temptations, not because he didn't feel the temptation, but because he was unwilling to allow anything to usurp God in the position as the most important thing in his life. In this story Jesus combats the temptation by relying on the Bible, which doesn't feel pressure to change and is helpful to help resist the pressure to compromise. Spend some time talking about other ways we can stay committed and strong against the temptation to fall into "inevitable compromises" and pray for each other.