



God's Got This

Devotional Thoughts for the Week of
November 1, 2020
by Joan Lonsway

This is week 9 of our series on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and we are focusing on Matthew 6:25-34. Jesus tackles the universal human need for security. Our devotional author this week is Joan Lonsway. Joan is retired and lives in Fairborn, and she has been a member of BCC for 28 years. She is a leader in Bible Study Fellowship International and, enjoys making greeting cards in her spare time.

Day 1: Matthew 6:25

Jesus tells us not to worry about our life when it comes to food, drink, and clothes. What is important is how we lead our lives and who we are trying to please. This question is asked in Galatians 1:10. Are we trying to please men or God? Paul says if we are trying to please men, then we would not be a servant of Christ.



As a child, I felt I had everything I needed but, my mother didn't. She worried all the time. With seven children, like me, I can understand why. My dad on the other hand always said that if you give back to God what is His, He will take care of you. And, He did. I eventually, adopted his views.

Who are you trying to please? Do you buy clothes to see their effect on others? Paul, in 1 Thessalonians, said they, the Apostles, were not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. If you kept in mind that God is testing your heart, would you act any different – or not?

Day 2: Matthew 6:26-27

Matthew 6:26 is my favorite verse in the Bible. Jesus tells us not to worry about where our next meal will come. God takes care of the birds and, as His children, He certainly takes care of us.

I was on our condo board for a year and during that time skimmed forty years of our monthly Bulletin. At first, the editor suggested owners might want to buy bird feeders to populate the village with a variety of birds. Ten years later, he was begging them to take down the feeders because of the incessant chirping and bird poop on everything. LOL!!!



God has a natural way of taking care of everything He has created. He doesn't want us to worry about these things. God wants our attention focused on Him and He wants us to be happy in His presence. Our sermons on this subject have talked about the reality of heaven. As a Christian, the joy of being in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is heaven to me. Worrying has no place in this relationship. What about you? Is your trust in God or do you waste your time worrying and seeking your own solutions?

Jesus says in 6:27, "who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" In truth, worrying causes stress; stress can cause illness; illness can cause death. I prefer to put my trust in God.

Day 3: Matthew 6:28-30

My Facebook feed is filled this Fall with picture after picture of trees and flowers, the colors of which take your breath away. Soon Winter will come, and the leaves will fall and blow away, and the flowers will die. The flowers didn't labor to make themselves beautiful. God did all the work.

In Genesis 3:21 God made garments of skin for Adam and Eve. What makes you think He wouldn't do the same for you? I wore uniforms for four years in high school; when I worked at a grocery store; and when I worked at a Doctor's office. What a relief not to have to worry what to wear every day. It shouldn't really matter. This past year has certainly changed my daily wardrobe!! But the truth is, God doesn't want us to waste our time focusing on clothes, jewelry, shoes, etc. He wants to be the focus in our lives, so He has made it easy for us by taking care of our needs. Do you think He loved Solomon more because he was a fancy dresser?



Jesus asks Peter in Matthew 14:31: "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When you worry, you are doubting God's majestic powers and His desire to be in union with you. Take time to thank God for the blessings and grace He bestows on you every day.

Day 4: Matthew 6:31-32

I am sure you have all read in Exodus where the Israelites griped a lot about their situation. They wanted to go back to Egypt, forgetting about the back-breaking work, horrible living conditions, and constant fear of being punished or killed. I wonder how God could have endured the whiny Israelites, with such patience. But He did. He even provided quail and manna, telling them to take just enough manna for that day. But here is the thing: some of the people took more than they needed, and the next day it was full of maggots.

Moses was speaking for God when he gave them instructions, and yet, the Israelites did not believe they would have enough. Even though God has blessed you time and time again, do you find yourself testing Him with your unbelief? Psalm 95:7-11 warns us not to harden our hearts like the Israelites.

My friend belongs to a faith that stores up a year's worth of food. She decided to go through her Stash one day and threw half of it away. I wonder if she thought to relate this to the plight of the Israelites?



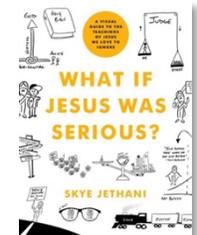
The next time you start worrying turn to Psalm 55:22: "Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fail."

Day 5: Matthew 6:33-34

So, the bottom line is "Don't worry be happy – NOW. But, if you look back at Matthew 6:25-34, what is it really about? To me it's about lack of trust, selfishness, greed, pity, anger, and a whole lot more of those human traits that lead us to sin. We do not always treat our Father, Creator, Hope, Healer...with the respect, love, and honor only He deserves.

I have said I lived in a house full of worriers growing up. Thankfully, it didn't rub off on me. I have been accused, by family, of not being compassionate because I don't worry about every little thing that happens. Do you really like to be around someone who does? Isn't the best way to show faith and trust in God, to give it all over to Him? That's what we are told to do.

In his book *What If Jesus Was Serious?* Skye Jethani talks about what will happen if we live in constant fear of not having enough. He says Jesus makes a contrast between the myth of scarcity and the reality of abundance in God's kingdom. His bottom line is that, if we believe that, with God, there is always an abundance, it will free us to truly love others.



How do you want others to see you, as a shining light full of hope for what is to come, or a Whiny Israelite carrying a bag of rotten manna?

More on Joan...

Joan has been a member of BCC for many years and heads up our Information Center ministry, scheduling hosts to serve as part of our Front Door Ministries Area. She also loves books, and has a garage full (since BCC had to cancel this year's Holiday Bazaar). So, if you'd like to purchase some books, with the proceeds going to Bunco for Charities to assist refugees, let her know and she'll set up an appointment for you!