

# Remember Your Purpose

When panic strikes, the way to find purpose is by seeking Jesus and His Kingdom and living in the moment.



Matthew 6:25-34; Ephesians 5:15-17

May 24, 2020

(Matthew 6:25-34) <sup>25</sup> "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? <sup>26</sup> 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? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? <sup>28</sup> "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> 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? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

(Ephesians 5:15-17) <sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

## COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- What is your go-to coping mechanism for dealing with stress and/or worry?
- Do you consider worry a sin? Explain your answer.
- Specifically, why is worry a problem in the life of Christ-followers?

## CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read Matthew 6:25-34

- How might Jesus desire for His people in 2020 to apply His words from this passage to the coronavirus pandemic?
- What truths in this passage remind you to trust God in moments when panic strikes?
- How does knowing that "your Heavenly Father already knows all your needs," help you face the future?
- What is God's will for you today (v. 33)?
- What would it look like for believers to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness when the world is changing or even shutting down around us?

Have a volunteer read Ephesians 5:15-17

- Give some practical examples of what it looks like to live as wise people in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic. Why do you think the first sign of wisdom that Paul gave was the careful use of time?
- What's the difference between living carefully and living fearfully?
- How can we know if we're being "foolish" with our time (v. 17)?

- Do you think our problem with God's will is understanding it or obeying it? How can we be intentionally careful when it comes to the Lord's will?

### COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- What do we risk missing spiritually if we give way to panic and anxiety during the coronavirus pandemic?
- What unique opportunities might God have for His people during this time? How might the situation look different if all believers first sought the kingdom of God together?
- What steps can we take to make the most of the opportunity in this time that believers and unbelievers alike recognize as evil?

**PRAYER:** Thank God for His constant love, care, and provision. Ask Him to help you focus on what you know about His will rather than what you don't. Invite Him to help you recognize the brevity of life and the urgency to seek His kingdom first above all things, turning your focus from your worries to the advancement of His kingdom.