**Finishing our Focus on the Final Three Imperatives Found in Chapter 6:**

* In our text this week, and last week’s text, there are three main imperatives (three commands):

1. “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven” found in verse 20 (I am lumping the negative command, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth,” together with this one as a negative way of saying the same thing).
2. “Do ***not be anxious***,” found three times. Verse 25: “Do not be anxious about your life.” Verse 31: “Do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’” Verse 34: “Do not be anxious about tomorrow.”
3. “***Seek first the kingdom of God*** and his righteousness” found in verse 33.

**Comparing Kinds of Kingships:**

“There are some kings who find it very effective to keep their subjects in constant anxiety. If the people are anxious about their life, and worry about where their next meal is coming from, then perhaps they will be more willing to do the king’s bidding in order to get the food they need from the king’s storehouse. Anxiety keeps them in their place. Fear makes the monarchy firm.”

**God’s Kingship and the Anxiety of His People:**

* Jesus does not want his people to be anxious. God does not secure his kingship by cultivating anxiety, but rather the aim of God’s kingship is to **free us from anxiety**. God doesn’t need to keep us anxious in order to establish his power or superiority, instead God shows his power and superiority **by working to take away our anxiety**!

**Truth to Believe:** If you are a born again Christian, God’s will for you this morning is that you not be anxious about anything, and that through your ever-growing faith and faithfulness, you might truly enjoy genuine peace and security.

**Being Personally Honest About Anxiety:**

* Oftentimes at night I struggle to sleep due to various anxieties.
* Sometimes I wake up anxious about various up-in-coming situations.
* Today’s sermon is very much for me as well as it is for you.

**Common Anxieties:**

* Finances, Job situations, Relationship situations (marriage/dating), worry regarding our Children, our own Heath or the health of loved ones, anxiety over impending Death (thus the unknown), anxiety regarding Conflicts in relationships (unsure outcomes), anxiety regarding Living situations/Transportation situations, anxiety related to Sin and the struggle of the flesh (how God views us), anxiety regarding even Trusting people or even God, anxiety regarding people’s approval or God’s…
* Folks anxiety if we allow it can, or has the potential to, consume our everyday life, and I mean literally in every aspect of our life!

**Huge Truth to Believe:** Today Jesus reminds us that his kingship is not built on the anxiety of his people. **He has made himself king over us for the opposite purpose**, namely, to take away our anxiety. **God does not want us to be anxious**, and this text tells us why!

**This Sermon’s Main Point:** Jesus says his disciples should not be anxious!

**V. 25**: Do not be anxious about your life.

**V. 31**: Do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’

**V. 34:** Do not be anxious about tomorrow.

* **The negative way of stating this sermon’s main point.**

**V. 33:** Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness… (Seek God’s kingdom first)!

* **The positive way of stating this sermon’s main point.**
* In other words, when all of our anxiety from ***my previous list*** comes rushing into your brains, **DO NOT FRET ABOUT THEM**. Instead of letting anxiety take its toll on us, make or remind yourself that God is the king in all affairs. Hand over whatever the situations might be to his kingly power, and ***seek to advance the kingdom of God*** and ***do his righteous will*** **with the faith** and confidence that **God will work for you and MEET ALL YOUR NEEDS**.
* If you believe in the kingship of your heavenly Father, you do not need to be anxious about anything.

**Eight Reasons Why We Should Not Be Anxious:**

1. **Life is more than food and clothing. V. 25 🡪** Pleasures/Wants can create unnecessary anxiety!

* Three Anxieties from Food and Clothing: *Pleasure* (food taste good), *Human pleasure* (nice looking clothing gets attention), *Long life* (need for food/protection from cold). Life is far too great to let ourselves be anxious over such things. Life is not just about physical pleasures (various pleasures or people’s approval), but is also about *the enjoyment of God*. **Remember:** Earth is not our home, but rather heaven and eternity in the age to come is.

1. **The birds of the air work and count on God. V. 26**

* Birds do not hoard food as though the sun won’t come up tomorrow (there is a faith present); how much more should we have faith since we know we are children of God.

1. **Anxiety does not actually help anyways. V. 27**

* Your anxiousness will not ever solve the problem. It doesn’t do you any good.

1. **God delights to adorn things. V. 28-30.**

* The point is if God would adorn grass so beautifully why wouldn’t he do so with his children.

1. **Unbelievers are anxious about food and clothing. V. 32**

* Anxiety about the things of this world puts us on par with unbelievers. Our happiness and faith/trust in God should be different than the worlds.

1. **Our father already knows your needs. V. 32**

* Anxiety shows we are too close to the world and too far from God; because *God has the heart of a loving father.* God knows our needs now and for eternity.

1. **God has promised to carry our burdens, so stop carrying them alone; if we truly seek first that which he has commanded us to seek first. V. 33**

* The best reason to stop anxiety, is that God promises to carry our burdens for us.

1. **Tomorrow has enough anxiousness of its own. V. 34.**

* Believe that God will still be God tomorrow. Each day has its own portion of pleasure and discomfort/issues.

**Conclusion:** **The more central his kingship becomes in our lives the less anxiety we will have**. Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection from the grave (which we celebrate next weekend), should produces disciples who are anxiety-free, or at the very least, less anxious than unbelievers!