

## FINDING CONTENTMENT - PASSION

## PRECEPT

## MATTHEW 6:25-33

<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.

## PROMISE

Jesus taught about the necessity of changing our priorities when it comes to daily life—perhaps most famously in the Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew 6:25–34, six times in those nine verses Jesus speaks directly against anxiety. His point is to not be anxious about our daily necessities: food and clothing. For food, He encourages us to “*look at the birds of the air*” (v. 26); if they are fed, then God, who loves us even more than the birds, will provide for us. Next, to calm our anxiety, He encourages us to “*consider the lilies*” of the field (v. 28). Are they not beautiful? If God clothes the fields in that way, will He not provide even more amply for us? “*Don’t worry about these things,*” Jesus says. “*Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.*” This isn’t a “Don’t worry; be happy” platitude from Jesus. His point is this: don’t spend your life worrying about taking care of yourself. God will take care of you. Instead, use your time and energy on something far more important: the kingdom of God. Let’s be honest: a lot of the time we spend pursuing things we think we need, or maybe just want, for lasting happiness is time wasted. Jesus wants us to reorient our lives in such a way that we put first things first. And what should come first? The kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33). Seek that first, and everything else will fall into line.

**OUR TIME.** Time is the greatest gift we can give to someone. We can earn more money, we can eat more food, but we cannot get more time. We are given different amounts of energy and resources, but we all have the same amount of time. If we truly treasure the Lord, He must be our top priority, spending time with Him and knowing Him through His Word.

**OUR TALENT.** Where are you using the talents God has given you? Are you using them for the benefit of others or just for your own benefit? When God gives us a talent, He expects us to use it. 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us, “*Use your gift well. Use the gift that God has given you to serve others.*”

**OUR TREASURE.** Proverbs 3:9-10 commands us, “*Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first and best part of all your income. Then your barns will be full, and your vats will overflow with fresh wine.*” When we honour God with the first part of our income, He will take care of us. When we are passionate with God’s mission, He will be passionate in blessings us. Also, He owns everything. We must give intentionally, cheerfully, and rightfully.

When we make Him the top priority of all areas of our lives, our prayers, desires, goals, dreams, and vision will be granted to us beyond what we can think or imagine. With Him, we can live content and fulfilled lives.

## PRACTICE

**1. Priorities.** When you map out your priorities, what do you find, functionally, is first in your life? Where does God functionally fit into your priorities?

**2. Seek First.** What are the two things that believers are told to seek in Matthew 6:33? What does ‘His kingdom’ refer to? How does one seek for it?

## PRAYER

## I. Marriages

- Pray that marriages will stay strong and will be a picture of Christ’s love to the church.

## II. Families

- Pray that family relationships will always be centred in Christ and filled with love & care.

## III. Edmonton

- Pray for mayor Sohi’s leadership, so that our city will be safer and more peaceful.

## IV. Canada

- May God’s peace, mercy, justice, and goodness fill our country. May there be revival in our nation.

## V. Missionaries

- Pray for strength, protection, and burning passion for all missionaries in spreading the Word of God.

## VI. Gospel

- Pray for open doors for all Christians to share the Gospel & love of Christ to our neighbours.

## VII. Discipleship

- Pray that fathers will disciple their families and that all of us will take part in the Great Commission.