

WHITFIELD PARISH
St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 6 July 2008

The Good Life – don't worry
Matthew 6 v.25 – 34

Read Matthew 6:7-13, 25-34 & 7:7-8

1. What do these verses tell us about the way in which God cares for his people?
2. In 6:19-24, Jesus is saying that earthly possessions can become idols by effectively deposing God in our hearts and becoming disproportionately important. In 6:25-34, what is Jesus saying about earthly needs?
3. In his book Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, D.A.Carson makes two propositions about worrying:
 - (i) There is a sense in which worry is not only good, but its absence is, biblically speaking, irresponsible.
 - (ii) There is a sense in which worry is not only evil, but its presence signifies unbelief and disobedience.
 - a. What do you think?
 - b. Can you think of examples of these two situations?
 - c. What kind of worry is Jesus talking about in 6:25-34?

Read Philippians 4:4-7

4. What is the Bible's prescribed cure for worry?

Back in Matthew 6, the word 'seek' in v 33 is present imperative, suggesting unceasing quest.

5. So, how reliable is the promise that Jesus (the creator and sustainer of the universe) makes in verse 33?

For meditation, in your group or at home:

*We have not known Thee as we ought,
Nor learned Thy wisdom, grace and power;
The things of earth have filled our thought,
And trifles of the passing hour.
Lord, give us light Thy truth to see,
And make us wise in knowing Thee.*

*We have not feared Thee as we ought,
Nor bowed beneath Thine awful eye,
Nor guarded deed and word and thought,
Remembering that God was nigh.
Lord, give us faith to know Thee near,
And grant the grace of holy fear.*

*We have not loved Thee as we ought,
Nor cared that we are loved by Thee;
Thy presence we have coldly sought,
And feebly longed Thy face to see.
Lord, give a pure and loving heart
To feel and know the love Thou art.*

*We have not served Thee as we ought,
Alas, the duties left undone,
The work with little fervour wrought,
The battles lost or scarcely won!
Lord, give the zeal, and give the might,
For Thee to toil, for Thee to fight.*

*When shall we know Thee as we ought,
And fear and love and serve aright?
When shall we, out of trial brought,
Be perfect in the land of light?
Lord, may we day by day prepare
To see Thy face and serve Thee there.*

[T.B.Pollock 1889]