

us, ♦loves us, ♦knows our needs, and ♦will provide; therefore, *trust in Him, trust in Jesus* – for time and eternity you are set; *then be at peace!*

3. **Living as Disciples of Jesus** – So, with God as our Master, *not money*, thus with our trust in God, *not money*, and living with peace, *not worry*, Jesus tells us how to live:
- a. ³³ **“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”** It’s so simple! As we – *by God’s grace* – make our relationship with Him our top priority, God will freely give us our food, clothes, shelter, and more!
- b. ³⁴ **“So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”** When we have our trust in money, *we will always worry about having enough*. But when our trust is in the Almighty God, we are at peace – *knowing He will provide today, tomorrow, forever!*

Conclusion: *Actions speak louder than words; our number 1 is not what we SAY but what we DO!* For example: Some very *faithful* employees are very *unfaithful* church members! If that is you, *there are two choices:*

- ♦Continue as you are, ♦trust in your money, ♦live with worry, and ♦be uncertain about your eternal home! OR
- ♦Be honest with yourself, ♦see your hypocrisy, and ♦repent – *before it is too late!*

And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

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Name YOUR Number 1

God or Money

Each has a Result

Peace

Worry

Based on Matthew 6:24-34 NAU (an update of the NAS in 1995)

8th Sunday after the Epiphany – 2011

February 27 → 8:00 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, again, *in the Sermon on the Mount*, Jesus is teaching His disciples – those who (*by grace through faith*) trust in Him for eternal life!

Jesus wants His disciples to ♦know they are saved from hell and ♦function as salt and light, *but there is more!* **Jesus also wants us to trust in our heavenly Father** – *first and foremost*, resulting in peace and contentment – *in all circumstances!*

Consider these words of Paul, *when he was in prison:* ^{NIV} **Philippians 4:11** “...I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.” So what is the secret; *what makes the difference?* The answer is found *in whom* or *in what* we trust! Let’s go to today’s gospel reading:

1. **Serving Two Masters** – ²⁴ **“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”** To *serve* has

to do with *obedience*; those who serve are – *to some extent* – servants! *Faithful servants obey their masters!* So **who is your master; who do you obey – God or money?** We want to SAY “God,” but to find the answer we must look beyond what we SAY to what we DO:

a. Serving wealth/money – When we serve it, *it controls us!* Money may tell us: “Work harder, earn more of me!” Or “You are the one who worked, you earned me, so you are free to spend me however you desire.” Money will always try to control us; whenever it is successful, we will be **devoted to money** and ultimately **despise the Almighty God!**

b. Serving God – **When God opens our eyes to our sin and His salvation**; then ♦God is our Master, ♦we are His willing servant, and ♦money is transformed – **money is no longer our master but our slave, so we control it unto God’s glory!**

c. Furthermore – **The one we serve is the one we trust!** If we trust money, **we will live with worry and spend eternity without God!** However, **if we trust in God, He will grant us peace and a blessed eternity!**

2. **Reasons to Not Worry** – ²⁵ “**For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?**” Let’s process what Jesus said; **which is more important** – life OR food; our bodies OR the clothes we wear? The answers are obvious AND *the implications are significant!* Since God has freely given and sustained our lives and bodies, *let us know that He will surely provide us with food and clothes!* **Those**

who serve God know such things and live in peace; those who serve money worry about many things!

a. Food example – ²⁶ “**Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?**” ²⁷ **And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?”**

Have you seen any birds ♦sowing seed, ♦harvesting their crops, ♦storing them in barns? *No!* They simply trust in God who faithfully provides for them! **Since God does so for them, He will certainly also do so for us!** Furthermore, *worrying benefits nothing!*

b. Clothing example – ²⁸ “**And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,**” ²⁹ **yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.** ³⁰ **But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!”** *Spring is coming!*

Think of the beauty of flowers, *so beautiful and yet so temporary!* As God has made and clothed them, *He will certainly also clothe us!* If money is your number 1, *you are not convinced!* But if God is your number 1, *you are rejoicing and at peace!*

c. Summary – ³¹ “**Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’**” ³² **For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.”** *So don’t worry!* Our Father created the heavens and the earth; then plants, trees, birds, fish, animals, and us! He ♦made