

## Group Resource

# Sermon Notes – Sunday, September 21, 2014

**Series:** Navigating through the ups and downs of real.life

**Message:** The Seat belongs to God

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:19-21; 6:25-34

- I. Last week, we focused on the principle that: How we appraise our value in God's sight determines the quality of life that we live on this earth. By nature, we choose our actions based upon our perceived appraisal of worth. Therefore, those who understand their own value and worth in God's sight will trust in His abundant care throughout the ups and downs of life.
- II. In this discourse, Jesus asks a very important rhetorical question. *"Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?" (Matthew 6:25)*
  - a. This question is not an attempt to devalue or sway individuals against food or clothes. Rather, Jesus is making a case for His extraordinary care for His people by stating a logical deduction.
  - b. **PROOF:** If God makes provision for life and our body then He will also make provision for our daily necessities (food and our clothes).
- III. Later, in verse 30, Jesus asks another fundamental question: *Will [God] not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? (Matthew 6:30)*
  - a. Ultimately, God allows us to go through circumstances to reveal the true condition of our heart.
  - b. The source of much of our worry is really rooted in a fundamental question of the heart – *Does God really care about me?* As a corollary, we also must wrestle with whether our faith is strong enough to trust in God's promises above the weightiness of our circumstances.
    - i. The measuring line of whether God cares about us is not based on the presence of temporary thrills, material accumulation or a perceived level of comfortability. We can determine whether God care by His faithfulness.
- IV. Understanding the riches of our value to God
  - a. Our value is not only evident in God's actions towards us but also in how He has created us. *Psalms 139:13-18 records wonderful truths of our beautiful and valuable design.*
  - b. The purpose of knowing our value is not to puff us up. Instead, Jesus uncovers our value to us so that we are not careless with whom we entrust our life to.
- V. Jesus, knowing our great value to God, could have simply forbidden us to worry and expect that we comply. However, God shared with us His instructions to not worry and also gave us (1) reasons why we shouldn't worry and (2) instructions how not to worry.
  - a. What instructions does Jesus give about worry?
    - i. To worry means to feel distressed, agitated or to be troubled over actual or potential difficulties. (Oxford English Dictionary)
    - ii. Jesus simply says, <sup>MATTHEW 6:31</sup> "Do not worry!" Worry is different from concern. Jesus instructs us to be aware of things that are going on around us, and to share God's heart towards those things. (Matthew 10:16; Romans 12:9)

- b. Why shouldn't we worry?
- i. *MATTHEW 6:32* *For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*
  - ii. Worry elevates our circumstances above God. Our circumstances become idols that we serve at their feet. Pagans have a fundamental goal of getting what they want. Yet, believers recognize that they have far greater goals for which they must strive.
  - iii. Worry devalues our trust in God's faithfulness. Jesus declared that "Your heavenly Father knows that you need them." Jesus knows and is concerned with our deepest needs.
- c. How do we avoid worry?
- i. It is impossible to avoid worry by (1) avoiding everything natural or (2) removing all expectations of God so that we are not disappointed. **The only antidote to worry is to replacing worry with faith**
  - ii. *STEP 1:* Know your value to God and constantly affirm that He cares for you throughout the ups and downs of life.
  - iii. *STEP 2:* Entrust God with the care for your life. Let Him be Lord! Something of great value cannot be entrusted to anyone/anything. If we are not vigilant, we will entrust our lives to the Lordship of self, riches, approval by others or ambition, to name a few.
    1. We entrust God with our lives when we: <sup>33</sup> **Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**
    2. We seek him first .... With our time (Ephesians 5:15-16)
    3. We seek him first .... With our talents (1 Corinthians 12:7)
    4. We seek him first .... With our resources (Proverbs 3:9)
    5. We seek him first .... With our choices (Proverbs 3:5-6)
    6. We seek him first .... With our attitude (Psalms 42:5)
  - iv. Worry is inevitable when we refuse to entrust God with our lives and instead put self, people, or things in the seat of responsibility that ultimately only belongs to God.

## Group Resource

# Let's Talk Notes – Sunday, September 21, 2014

**Series:** Navigating through the ups and downs of real.life

**Message:** The Seat belongs to God

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:19-21; 6:25-34

- 1) Imagine that you were entrusted with an expensive car, piece of jewelry, house or other item. What would you do in order to take care of it?
- 2) As you reflect back on last weekend's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp? Were you challenged in any area of your personal walk with God?
- 3) What should you do when you struggle with the heart question of "Does God really care?" **READ Psalms 42.** How did King David struggle to understand about God's care through his circumstances? How did David work through his doubts?
- 4) Have you ever used the wrong measuring line to determine whether God cares about you? How can you receive God's care when it doesn't manifest itself in temporary thrills, material accumulation or a perceived level of comfortability?
- 5) What are you doing to know your value to God and constantly affirm that He cares for you? If you haven't already, find a Scripture to meditate on that affirms God care for you. **READ Psalms 139; Psalms 27:10.**
- 6) Pastor Joseph shared "Something of great value cannot be entrusted to anyone/anything. If we are not vigilant, we will entrust our lives to the Lordship of self, riches, approval by others or ambition, to name a few." Share your thoughts.
- 7) What are the benefits of seeking God first? **READ 1 Kings 3:9-14; Matthew 19:27-30.** Share practical ways that you can seek God first in each of the following areas. Breaking up in groups of 2-3 for each section, read the scripture and then present your ideas back to the group.
  - a. With your time (Ephesians 5:15-16)
  - b. With your talents (1 Corinthians 12:7)
  - c. With your resources (Proverbs 3:9)
  - d. With your choices (Proverbs 3:5-6)
  - e. With your attitude (Psalms 42:5)
- 8) As Pastor Joseph demonstrated, we can place other people/things in the seat that belongs to God. Are there any chairs in your life where you need to excuse yourself or others out of the seat? Are there things that are hindering you from allowing God to take full control?

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**DISCIPLESHIP QUESTION:** In Joshua 1:8 (NLT), the Lord instructs Joshua saying “Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.” How can we meditate on the Word of God? Utilizing Rick Warren’s method of repeating a passage and emphasizing a different word each time, read through Philippians 4:13.

Example: “**I** can do everything through him who gives me strength.”

“I **CAN** do everything through him who gives me strength.”

“I can **DO** everything through him who gives me strength.”