



## Your Stuff is not Your Rescuer

Matthew 6:19-34

**Listen!** I must confess to some times of real anxiety about my financial future.

- **Tension:** What is the solution to financial anxiety about the future and to genuine financial security?

Matthew 6 is the greatest sermon ever given on money—my reading it is more valuable than the rest of what I have to say! (To which you say, “That is always true with you Dave!”)

**Command #1:** Lead your heart to heaven...by storing up treasure in heaven where it is secure. (vv 19-21)

- **Explanation #1:** Eyes that are staring covetously at wealth...reveal a great inner, spiritual darkness. (vv 22, 23)
- **Explanation #2:** You can serve either God or wealth...never both! (v 24)

**Command #2:** Do not worry about getting what you need...because Your Father knows (cares and provides) what you need. (v 25, 34)

- Illustrations (vv 26-32):

**Command #3:** *First and foremost* pursue God’s rule and His righteousness...and He will provide to you *everything you need*. (v 33)

- The rule of God =
- The righteousness of God =
- Needs =

**Warning:** When an airplane goes into a “stall” the steps to getting out of that stall are counter-intuitive—really frightening, seemingly insane.

- The steps to financial security are counter-intuitive—really frightening, seemingly insane!

# “Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

**The Core Truth:** *First and foremost* pursue God’s rule and His righteousness...and He will provide to you *everything you need*. (v 33)

- **Sunday:** Do you have any worries about your financial future and if you do, how would you describe them?
- **Monday:** What do you think about this statement? “I love the things in which I invest.” Do you have evidence of this in your life? Is it possible to come to love something or someone that you do not love by investing in it or in them?
- **Tuesday:** Can you give another illustration of God’s care for us—along the lines of Jesus’ illustrations about birds and lilies?
- **Wednesday:** Does it feel counter-intuitive to you when Jesus says to pursue God’s rule and God’s righteousness in order to gain financial security?
- **Thursday:** Is there one thing that you need to do and are willing to do in order to more fully pursue the rule of God in your own life?
- **Friday:** Is there one thing that you need to do and are willing to do in order to more fully pursue the righteousness of God in your own life?
- **Saturday—Seven “rubber-meets-the-road” practical financial actions:**
  - Enjoy simple things in life—a walk with friends, the outdoors, a simple meal, a good book, a nap, or a glass of lemonade—rather than pursuing the elaborate things of life that are electronic, expensive, and elaborate.
  - Put a “cap” on your lifestyle—stop raising your standard of living each time you get a raise and just start giving more and more.
  - Get some professional advice, maybe from someone who does not sell insurance, about the wise use of insurance.
  - Get a professional to help you write a will.
  - Keep one credit card in your pocket and use it only to rent cars—pay for things with cash because everyone spends less when they hand over actual dollars than when they sign a paper slip.
  - Put your teenagers on a personal clothing budget—give them X dollars a month—and let them buy what they want and do not bail them out when they buy a \$200 pair of tennis shoes and have no money for socks.
  - Make goals for long-term use of your cars, home, clothes, and furniture.

**Note for Connection Groups:** The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: [www.cypressbible.org](http://www.cypressbible.org) and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.