**Trust in the Lord**

Based on [Matthew 6:24-34](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Mt6.24-34)

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Today’s gospel is about trusting God above all things. You trust your car to start in the morning to get you to work or to church. You trust your doctor to monitor your health and diagnose any illness. **You trust your bank to hold your money until you need it.** You trust that the grocery store will have meat, milk, and produce on the shelves when you run out. Your whole life is a series of trust arrangements, and I think all would agree that your life is either more or less stressful based on how reliable you believe this network of trust to be.

But the Psalmist said long ago, “It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.” And of securing the provisions of this life…Jesus says to you today in the appointed Gospel lesson, “**Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**”

Jesus’ teaching here today is about anxiety. It’s not really about food or clothing or the necessities of this life or the next. It’s about anxiety, stress, worry…doubt. **Jesus gives no advice here about how to make sure you have enough food or clothing**. He doesn’t give you ten easy steps to success in this life. All he’s talking about is anxiety, where it comes from, why it comes and what you can do about it.

Anxiety, Jesus says, comes from having mixed allegiances and divided interests. “**No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.” Anxiety comes from trying to have your cake and eat it too.,** trying to serve two masters when there can be only one in the end. And Jesus identifies what these two masters are in saying, You cannot serve God and money.”

Money is representative of all the security this world can afford. Money is a paper guarantee, a coinage of trust in this world. It has symbols of the government stamped all over it. Ironically, US money has its motto stamped upon it “In God we Trust.” **But God makes no promises with respect to money. He gives no guarantee that the government that’s here today won’t be gone tomorrow.** Money is guaranteed by the government, but God says, “It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.” And the basket of cash you have gathered, or stored away in the bank today might be worth nothing tomorrow. It’s happened before in the world. Money is not absolute, but it is the best this world can do for storing its promises of earthly assurance and security.

But Jesus says that you cannot serve God and money. And his message is directed at those who do trust in God. People who don’t trust in God may have anxiety, but it’s only because they haven’t thought things through. Without God, you can only trust in yourself. Without God, you can only be sure about yourself. Without God, the best way to make sure things turn out the way you want them to, is to devote yourself to money, to obtaining it, securing it, sacrificing for it. You want to feed your family, serve money. You want help the poor, acquire wealth. We have laws in place to make sure that people are treated equally, but the truth is that in this world, money talks, money buys, money is power.

You want to get justice, it is available to all…*so long as you can pay the court fees and afford the best lawyer*. You want to run for election, anybody can…*so long as you can please enough people to fund your campaign*. **You want immediate healthcare you can…*so long as you can afford to travel to the States where you can pay a doctor to see you immediately.*** If you don’t trust God, you trust yourself; if you don’t serve God, you serve yourself and the way to get your way in this world is money. Pagans will still have anxiety, but that’s because money is only the most powerful thing in this world; but it is not all-powerful.

But you who trust in the Lord have the creator of the universe looking after you. **We who have been washed in the blood of Jesus have peace with God and his eternal patronage.** If God is for us, who can be against us? If the pagans only have filthy lucre to take care of them, how much better off are you who have the sovereign Lord looking after you. He clothes the lazy lilies of the field, he will not leave you naked. He feeds the birds without money or barns, will he not feed you whom he loves, whom he made in his image, whom he died for, and whom he will raise from the dead?

“Do not be anxious about tomorrow…Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.” The world is full of trouble, and it makes money off of you by getting you to worry about job security, retirement and savings, your health and diet, your reputation and status. **It wants to sell you peace by making you anxious about the future.** But the peace of the Lord is for today and for eternity. Tomorrow will come and it will go; but the word of the lord endures forever. So dedicate yourself to what is eternal, cast your anxieties upon God and His Spirit will give you peace, gentleness, self-control, and the righteousness of Christ.

Trust in the Lord and lean not on your own understanding. The only thing worth worrying about is your soul, and it has been redeemed on Calvary’s mountain 2000 years ago. Cast your anxieties upon Jesus Christ, the master who bought you with his own blood, and though you die you will live; for anyone who believes in him will never die.

The world is deceptive, but the Lord speaks Truth. The world is uncertain, but the Lord is trustworthy. You cannot serve them both. Your own passions and desires will betray you, but the Lord is faithful and will deliver on his promises. **On the last day he will come to judge all flesh, balance all accounts.** He will cast the world into debtors prison for borrowing more than it could ever repay. But you who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ and believe in him are set to inherit both heaven and earth.

Therefore, “**Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has set his seal**” (John 6:27).