

Seven Principles for Practicing Righteousness—Part 5
Only Trust in God's Provision
Matthew 6:25-34

I. **A P _____ (v. 25)**

- a. **For this reason** ties this truth back to verse 24 and tells us that we shouldn't worry because we have a sovereign Master
 - i. **merimnaō (μεριμνάω)** = "to have an anxious concern—'to be worried about'"
 - ii. "**take no thought**" = be not solicitous = full of concern or fears
- b. Christians are to think about and plan for the future; to not do so is actually a sin (cf. Prov. 6:6-7; 2 Thess. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:8)
 - i. What we are NOT to do is WORRY!

II. **A P _____ (v. 26-32)**

- a. Comparing how God cares for the lesser parts of His creation (birds and wildflower) with how He cares for the greater parts (mankind).
- b. **Birds of the air** don't worry; they just carry out God's will working hard and leaving the results up to Him (cf. Job 38:41; Ps. 147:9)
- c. Worrying will not **add a single hour to his life**
 - i. **hēlikia (ἡλικία)** = "span of life, lifetime"
 - ii. **cubit (pēchys / πῆχυς)** = "traditionally the distance from the elbow to the end of the fingers, about eighteen inches or one-half meter"
 1. This does not mean we don't care for ourselves, but God is sovereign.
- d. **the lilies of the field** are beautiful but fleeting; so why do we worry so much about what we will wear? (cf. 1 Kings 4:20-34; 7:1-51; 10:14-29; 2 Chron. 9)
- e. **You of little faith!** (cf. Matt. 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; 17:20; Luke 12:28)

- f. **Gentiles (ethnos / ἔθνος)** = the nations or peoples outside of God's covenant (Practical Atheism; Eph 4:17-19)

III. **A P _____ (v. 33)**

- a. **His kingdom and His righteousness**
 - i. An inaugurated spiritual reality in Believers hearts (cf. Acts 20:24; Rom. 8:32; 12:1-2; 14:17; Phil. 4:19; Col. 3:2-3; 1 Peter 5:7; 2 Peter 3:11)
 - ii. A coming physical reality in the Millennium (cf. Matt. 19:27-29; Rom. 8:17; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21)
- b. This promise relates to both luxuries and necessities!
- c. In God's economy it is always about the heart, so it doesn't matter whether it's a NEED or a WANT; the key is not to WORRY!

IV. **A P _____ (v. 34)**

- a. The "realities" of today are often hard enough by themselves; so don't let the "maybes" of tomorrow rob you of whatever joy and effectiveness God has for you today!
- b. **"²⁴ This is the day which the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it."** (Ps. 118:24)