

Matthew: His Life And His Gospel – Part 6

Matthew 6:25-34 [New King James] *“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”*

Jesus Christ sets out different arguments and defences against worry.

- 1) God gave us life so surely we can trust Him for the lesser things in life to sustain that life, [**verse 25**].
- 2) Look at the birds, there is **no** signs of worry in their lives, **no** attempt to pile up goods for an unforeseeable future. Jesus Christ is not saying that birds do not work, they have to work hard to find the seeds and insects needed to sustain their lives. The point that Jesus Christ is making is that they show no signs of worry, [**verse 26**].
- 3) Jesus Christ goes on to prove that worry is in any event useless.

The word “*cubit*” is the Greek word “*pechus*” referring to a measurement of a person, in both size, time of life or length of life. When “*stature*” is Greek word “*hēlikia*” is linked to it in the text.

Hebrews 11:11 [New King James] *“By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.”*

Past a time in her life.

John 9:21, 23 [New King James] *“but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.” ... “Therefore his parents said, ‘He is of age; ask him.’”*

The age of an adult.

Luke 2:52 [New King James] *“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men.”*

Matured in years.

Luke 19:3 [New King James] *“And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.”*

Short in height.

Ephesians 4:13 [New King James] *“till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”*

A certain time in life when we have the maturity of Jesus Christ within us.

Psalms 39:4-5 [New King James] *“LORD, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am. Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my age is as nothing before You; certainly every man at his best state is but vapour.”*

The Hebrew word translated “measure” is “middah” which means both length of life and physical height or size.

Proverbs 9:10-11 [New King James] *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years of life will be added to you.”*

This is how our life can be increased! Not by our own efforts but submission to the Eternal Creator God and using the wisdom found in His Word, the Christian Bible, [Matthew 6:27].

To worry about the physical things we need to continue to live our human life, is non-Christian, [Matthew 6:31-32] we can trust our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ for our need. Notice it did **not** say physical desires!

Our desires should be focused on our being part of the future Kingdom of God, the created family of Godlike people whose lives are driven by a sacrificial love for God and other human beings, [Matthew 6:33-34].

Matthew 7:1-5 [New King James] *“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”*

There is hardly anyone who has not been guilty of some grave misjudgement, nor hardly anyone who has not suffered from someone else’s misjudgement.

Jesus Christ’s statement, “judge not” is against the kind of hypocritical judgement attitude that tears down others in order to elevate self.

It is not against critical thinking but a call to be discerning rather than negative.

Jesus Christ tells us to expose false teachers, [Matthew 7:15-20].

Paul taught that we should exercise church discipline, [1 Corinthians 5:1-8].

Only God can be the final judge and only God can see beyond the façade that every human will hide their true nature behind.

Psalms 139:1-16 [New King James] *“O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall fall on me,’ even the night shall be light about me; indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, but the night shines as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to You. For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was*

not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skilfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.”

This is the wisdom and insight into the Eternal God that He gave to His servant, King David.

No human being can ever have this kind of insight into the mind and motives that a person has to think and act in the way they do.

This is why only God can judge any situation justly.

It is also almost impossible for any human being to be strictly impartial in their judgement, [1 Corinthians 4:3-5].

No person but God is good enough to judge another person. The very humorous picture given by Jesus Christ drives home to all of us just how inadequate is our ability to judge another person righteously.

We all have quite enough to do to rectify our own lives without seeking censoriously to rectify the lives of others.

We all would do well to concentrate on our own faults and to leave the faults of others to the Eternal God.

1 Corinthians 11:31 [Amplified Bible] *“For if we searchingly examine ourselves, detecting our shortcomings and recognising our own condition we should not be judged and penalty decreed by divine judgement.”*

James 4:11-12 [New King James] *“Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?”*

In total contrast James tells us to be sure that we do not sin; we should do good to others, not judge them, [verse 17].

Matthew 7:6 [New King James] *“Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.”*

This is still in the context of right judgements, it is suggesting a right-minded discrimination in spiritual matters.

Dogs and swine were Jewish descriptions of Gentiles and the meaning has probably been transferred to dealings with those outside the Christian community.

Not every human being, in every generation, is being called by God the Father to have their chance of salvation now.

John 6:44 [New King James] *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

Without this calling by God the Father, Jesus Christ cannot offer salvation to a person.

Romans 8:28-30 [New King James] *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”*

Again there are limits to who are being called at this time, in a world that is under the influence of Satan, [2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19; Revelation 12:9].

2 Peter 3:8-9 [New King James] *“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**”*

The Eternal God is not limited by time and His great desire is that all human beings will eventually repent, so He can then offer them their “day of salvation,” when it will be the best time for them.

Most people are at this time deceived by Satan or completely involved with human society, it would be difficult for them to repent. It may even cause them to blaspheme the Loving God who gave them life, [Revelation 16:9, 11, 21] and still not repent.

For such people their chance of repentance and salvation will come after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, this time as King of kings and Lord of lords, [Revelation 17:14; Revelation 19:11-16].

The influence of Satan will **not** exist for one thousand years, [Revelation 20:1-3] then for all time, [Revelation 20:10].

All who come out of the “*great tribulation*” [Matthew 24:21-22] and all who have never heard of Jesus Christ as their Saviour or been taught from God’s Word, the Christian Bible, will be resurrected back to human life to have their minds opened to the reason why human beings exist and what God has planned for their future, [Revelation 20:11-13].

Such Satan-deceived people would today only trample on the truth and persecute all who brought it to them.

All this great plan of the Eternal God shows His perfect wisdom and total love for all humanity. We should constantly thank Him for this great love and compassion for all humanity through all generations.

[Please download and study the following articles on this website: ‘*God’s Purpose For Every Human Being*’ listed under main heading ‘*Human Nature*’ and ‘*What On Earth Is God Doing?*’ listed under main heading ‘*Kingdom Of God.*’ You will be eternally grateful that you did.]

Matthew 7:7-11 [New King James] *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”*

Every human being who does pray is bound to want to know what kind of God they are praying to. Jesus Christ assures us of the caring attitude the Eternal Creator God has that far exceeds any human care.

James shows us what our attitude should be when we pray.

James 1:5-8 [New King James] *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”*

The Greek word translated “double-minded” is “dipsuchōs” meaning two-spirited, being influenced by the ruling spirit of this world, Satan, [2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19] as well as the Holy Spirit. Also, we have to be asking for the right reason, [James 4:3] also with thankfulness, [Colossians 4:2; Philippians 4:6; Ephesians 5:20].

Matthew 7:12 [New King James] *“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”*

This is commonly known as the “golden rule” in many religions it is stated in a negative form “do not do to others what you do not want done to you.”

By stating it positively Jesus Christ makes it more significant.

It is not very hard to refrain from harming other human beings. It is much more difficult to take the initiative by doing something good for them.

This is the foundation of all active goodness and mercy, the kind of love that the Eternal God shows to us every day, [Matthew 5:4-5; 1 John 4:19].

Matthew 7:13-14 [New King James] *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*

There is a certain dramatic quality about life, in every action in our lives we are confronted with a choice, a choice that we cannot evade, for we can never stand still.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 [New King James] *“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, 6 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”*

These were the words of a great leader, Moses, as he came near to the end of his physical life.

Joshua 24:15-20 [New King James] *“And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. So the people answered and said: ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed. And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God.’ But Joshua said to the people, ‘You cannot serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good.’”*

These are the words of another great leader, Joshua, as he came to the end of his life, [verse 29].

Jeremiah 21:8 [New King James] *“Now you shall say to this people, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.””*

God inspired Jeremiah to warn the people that they had to make a choice.

The “gate” mentioned in Matthew 7:13 that is “narrow” is Jesus Christ, [John 10:7; John 14:6]. We are restricted to Jesus Christ for salvation and the gift of eternal life, [Acts 4:12]. Few who chose this way, as yet, because God has allowed Satan to blind them to this “narrow” path in life, [2 Corinthians 4:4].

The vast majority of humanity will have their chance of salvation after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, [Revelation 20:11-13].

Matthew 7:15-20 [New King James] *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”*

We must evaluate spiritual teachers by their personal lives; just as trees are consistent in the kind of fruit they produce, good teachers consistently exhibit good behaviour and high moral character as they live out the truths that they preach from God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

Matthew 7:21-23 [New King James] *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”*

Jesus Christ is more concerned with our “walk” in life than our “talk.” Many people think that if they are “good” people and say religious things they will be rewarded with eternal life.

In reality, faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to His words is what will count on our judgement day before Jesus Christ, [2 Corinthians 5:10-12].

Even if these false teachers cast out demons by using the name Jesus Christ, [Acts 19:13] or perform miracles, [Matthew 24:24] we need to test the spirit that is behind the teacher.

1 John 4:1-6 [New King James] *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”*

The position that Jesus Christ plays in their teaching is the key to knowing if they are influenced by Satan or the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 7:24-27 [New King James] *“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”*

Solomon the writer of **Proverbs 10:25** gave Jesus Christ the hint of these pictures.

Jesus Christ was also a skilled builder in His early years and this kind of problem could happen in Palestine; a builder had to think ahead where to build.

There was many a gully which in summer was a pleasant sandy hollow, but in winter a raging torrent of rushing water. It would be very short-sighted to build a house in the dried-up bed of a river, for when the winter came the house would disintegrate.

Only a life that has a firm foundation can withstand the pressures of life.

1 Corinthians 3:11 [New King James] *“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*

The only sure foundation for our lives is Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ was the Rock mentioned in the Old Testament, [**Deuteronomy 32:3-4; Exodus 17:6; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4**] who gave the Israelites life-giving water.

John 6:66-68 [New King James] *“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.’”*

Jesus Christ’s words are the foundation of eternal life, but they must not only be heard but acted on, [Matthew 7:24]. Without this, such people despise the Godly wisdom found in the words of Jesus Christ, [**Proverbs 1:7, 22-24; Proverbs 8:5**] given to us by the Holy Spirit, [**1 Corinthians 12:8**] the Spirit of Jesus Christ, [**Romans 8:9**] who will lead us into all truth, [**John 16:13**].

Matthew 7:28-29 [New King James] *“And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”*

The teachers of the law, the scribes, often quoted traditions and religious authorities of the past.

Jesus Christ spoke with a new authority, His own, for He is the Word of God, [John 1:1-4, 14].