

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

January 15, 2023 Matthew 6:19-34 by Bob Branch  
The Presence of the Future, part 9

**BIG IDEA: Many things compete for your attention, but only a few things are ultimately important. Build around them—putting God in first place. Jesus will challenge anything that competes for your attention besides him.**

### FOCUS DILEMMA

<sup>19</sup> “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Your treasure **LEADS** You.

<sup>22</sup> “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

What you treasure **FILLS YOU**.

*Q: What are you taking in and how is it impacting you?*

<sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.” **1 John 2:15** (Eph. 6:7; Col. 3:24; Rom. 12:11)

*Q: Who’s your master? Who are you serving/working for?*

You will **SERVE** what you treasure.

## FOCUS CONSEQUENCES

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

<sup>28</sup> “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

Earthly treasures **CREATE WORRY**.

Trust **GOD’S CARE**. Come under/bring all under his care

### REFOCUS-PRIORITIZE

<sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. **Matthew 6:19-34**

Worry Antidote: Put God & what he cares about **FIRST**

### NEXT STEPS

1. List Top 3 \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Put God \_\_\_\_\_. Invest time, talent, treasure.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ schedule around them.
4. Thin the herd, \_\_\_\_\_.