

“Our Daily Bread” – Pr Jim Sprengle – Stewardship Sunday October 11, 2026

- I. **Matthew 6:33** – But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- II. **As Christians, we endure a lifelong battle** with contentment in Christ on the one hand, and the worries and anxieties of life on the other hand.
 - a. It's easy to say the words, “God takes care of everything,” but to trust in the Lord above all things means more than words, it's also walking in His ways.
 - i. Sometimes, when trials come, we say, ‘I know God will take care of me.’ But we're like a little boy whistling in the dark... trying to convince ourselves we're not anxious and afraid, when deep down, we're wondering whether God really will come through.
 - ii. And sometimes, it's not just our doubts that show our lack of trust... as our actions tell the story, too... when we say we trust God to provide, but then we take care of everything we want first, and give Him whatever is left over.
 - iii. There is a basic starting point in all this struggle, the First Commandment says, “You shall have no other gods,” or in the Small Catechism, “We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.”
 1. And it then says that we are to trust in God more than “human achievements such as intellect, technology, or medical advances,” “human goodness or religious devotion,” “money and possessions,” “pleasures such as food, drink, sex, sports, or entertainment,” or “family and friends.”¹
 2. The truth is, we are sinful people, and therefore trusting in God above these things is a lifelong battle.
 - b. I read a Wall Street Journal article regarding a survey that found 70% of people agreed with the statement, “having more money would solve most of my problems.”
 - i. Whether people made poverty level income or over \$200,000 a year, 70% agreed that money would solve most of their problems.
 - ii. The strange thing is that it really didn't matter how much people made, because when the question was “How much more do you need?” the top earners thought they needed more than anyone else.
 1. For example, a \$65,000 earner needed \$95,000, a \$200,000 earner needed \$350,000, and a \$10 million earner needed \$15 million to be happy.
 - iii. Here's the reality though, when surveying happiness on a 100-point scale, there was only a five-point difference between the lowest earners and the highest.²
 - iv. When we trust in money or anything else to bring us happiness and contentment more than we trust in God, they fail us every time.

- c. At the heart of the matter is opening our eyes to the incredible provision of God for our every need and being content with that... versus our insatiable desires and temptations to look elsewhere.
 - i. It's no coincidence that the devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness with provision (physical needs)... protection (testing the Father's faithfulness)... and power and wealth (worldly glory).
 - ii. We have so many choices to make in our journey of faith, yet the Lord wants us to trust in Him above all things and recognize that everything comes from His hand.

III. **Last week we heard a portion of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount** and today is a continuation of that teaching.

- a. Certainly, in context, Jesus is preaching to an ancient crowd of people who are struggling with needs that most of us don't experience.
 - i. In fact, Jesus is talking about basic needs here... and in modern society, we often get needs and wants mixed up... especially when the Super Bowl comes along and we "need" a big screen TV.
- b. Yet, the underlying principle still holds.... don't be worried and anxious over the material world... but above all things look to the reign of God and who you are in Christ, and everything else will fall into place.
 - i. God is so good that it's impossible to count the needs He meets for our everyday lives – both known and unknown.
 - ii. As you read the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer, "give us this day our daily bread," this includes everything we need to sustain our lives.
 - iii. Air, sunlight, plants and animals, water, shelter, food, and clothing are just a short list of the needs God meets for us... and that doesn't include the systems in place to give us health and safety.
 - iv. It's always a good exercise to stop and smell the roses, or take an inventory of the wonderful gifts God provides.
 - 1. When you list it all out and look at it on paper, or just recognize it in your mind, it's hard not to be overwhelmed with gratitude.
 - 2. Even more so in our great nation of America, what we call normal provision far exceeds that of the rest of the world.
 - 3. Perhaps some of you saw videos of the fans from the World Cup Soccer games coming to America... as they looked at our grocery stores, sporting goods stores, stadiums, military flyovers, trucks... and were completely astounded at the sheer size of everything, amounts of food, the homes, the amenities, and the unbelievable excess we have in our country.
 - 4. And yet we worry... and we fret... and we overlook the incredible blessings God has poured out on us... or worse yet, we put our trust in these material blessings to make us content.
- c. The Sermon on the Mount reminds us how far we fall short of God's perfect will... and when we realize that we can never measure up on our own,

we're driven to the only One who can save us, Jesus Christ, who provides not only for our needs in this life, but for our eternal salvation.

- IV. **You see, no amount of meeting our basic needs will deliver us from sin.**
- a. We can always be incredibly grateful and encouraged by our daily bread, but in the end each of us will take our final breath and the basic needs will pass away.
 - b. Perhaps only then can we get a full picture of how much God loves us... as we are surrounded by the eternal joys of heaven... and especially in the presence of our Savior who died and rose again for us.
 - i. There, we will fully comprehend the gift He provided... coming into the world, not with status, royalty, or wealth... but in humility and poverty, living like any other average person.
 - ii. Even when fame and power were at His fingertips, Jesus kept moving and telling people to be quiet about Him... because He had a much higher purpose – to be crucified to pay for our sins and rise again to call us not guilty! (Romans 4:25)
 - iii. These things took place for us so that Jesus could do more than support our daily needs, but through faith and trust in Him... He provides the forgiveness of our sins.
 - iv. In God's wisdom, He sent our Savior to be the Bread of Life... the forgiveness and sustenance to live under the constant temptation to trust in the material world and other gods.
 - c. God reminds us just like the Israelites who wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, that He will give us our daily bread... but we must look to Him.
- V. **Praise God that literally everything we have comes from His hand.**
- a. Because nothing is of my own doing or talent, I realize that God has gifted me with skills, gifts, and abilities to glorify Him and build up others.
 - b. When I stop and smell the roses, it's clear that God gave me life, skills, finances, spiritual gifts, and much more... that can all be used to His glory – because it's all due to His generosity and love anyway!
 - c. A very important part of teaching on stewardship (or managing God's gifts) is how we can stop just saying, "I trust You, God," and put those words into action by using our time, talent, and treasure to serve Him and others.
 - i. If the body of Christ fully understood these Godly principles, an amazing transformation would take place in the world, but also in the hearts of the givers... because stewardship is stepping out in faith and trust in the Lord.
 - d. God is all about seeking and saving the lost and keeping the faithful under His love and care... and everything we give in our time, talent and treasure goes to this great work.... It's not a business; it's walking in faith with Christ.
 - e. As we consider our commitment forms in the coming week, remember the overwhelming grace and provision that God has poured onto us... and step out in faith as a response to that love.

- f. Walk in faith and trust in the Lord above all things... He will provide everything needed to respond to His love.

¹ *Luther's Small Catechism*, Concordia Publishing House, 2017

² Joe Pinsker, "The Pay Raise People Say They Need to Be Happy," *The Wall Street Journal* (11-19-23)