

Week Two – Clarify Your Priorities
Matthew 6:28-34

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. If worry is one extreme and apathy its polar opposite, which do you think is the greater vice?
2. Is all worry wrong? When does sincere concern cross the line to become sinful worry?
3. What's the thing you would most like to change in your life in the new year? What would it take to accomplish that change? Is it doable? Why?
4. Read James 4:13-17. Is God against making plans for a better future? What caveat does He suggest in all plans?
5. So often people describe a bad situation as God's will that we must accept. Is everything that happens God's will? Explain.
6. Read Romans 8:28. Does this passage say, "God causes all things?" What role do the sinful world, the devil and our own sinful nature play in the consequence of life?
7. Conclude your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for greater clarity in understanding the priorities you want to establish in the new year.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. Read Matthew 6:28-34. Which verse caught your attention?
9. Fear is worry about something specific. Anxiety is a state of general concern over the unknown. Do you sometimes suffer from anxiety? How common and issue do you think anxiety is in people's lives?
10. What reason does the gospel give us in verse 32 to not be anxious?
11. There was a time when Christians felt no responsibility to provide for themselves other than pray. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-14. What advice does God have about those who feel no need to take personal responsibility for their lives?
12. What's the difference between helping someone who needs a hand and enabling them in self-destructive behavior by providing too much help or the wrong kind of help?

13. Have you been harmed by someone who meant well but their help actually contributed to your inability to cope? Have you ever wondered if the help you gave to someone had crossed the line and become enabling?
14. Finish your FIFTEEN by praying for God to help you better understand how and when to help another person in need without crippling him or her.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

15. Read 1 Timothy 6:6-11. What does the Bible say is the key to a life well balanced between physical needs and spiritual significance?
16. Compare this advice to the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:33.
17. Would you be content with enough food, shelter and clothing? Describe the difference between contentment and a desire to set goals and accomplish greater things?
18. Are you content in your present situation? Is it inherently wrong to want more or want to achieve more? Is it possible to be both content and ambitious?
19. List what you consider to be the six most important aspect of a well-lived life.
20. Out of those six, which three do you feel good about in your life and which three do you think still require your focused attention?
21. End your FIFTEEN by praying for a grateful heart and contentment for the blessings you have in your life at the present.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

22. Read Matthew 6:33. Explain what this means in your own words? How does it apply to your life?
23. What are the differences between necessities and desires?
24. On a scale of 1 to 10, what score would you give yourself when measuring how effectively you live within your income?

25. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12. What does this passage suggest is the goal of a balanced life? Do you consider yourself a generous person? Would others agree?
26. Do you know anyone who has fewer material possessions than you but appears to be happy? How is that possible?
27. Think for a moment about your immediate family situation. Who in your immediate family is more easily satisfied with your present status in life? Do you consider that an asset or a detriment to your ambitions in life?
28. Conclude your FIFTEEN in a prayer of gratitude for all the things God has given you. Be specific.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

29. According to Matthew 6:34. Why should you not be anxious about tomorrow?
30. In the Lord's Prayer, there is only one petition about physical needs. The rest of the petitions in the prayer deal with spiritual values. What does that suggest? Do your prayers reflect the same ratio of spiritual values versus physical needs?
31. The petition of the Lord's Prayer that asks for necessities asks only for today's necessities. In the Old Testament, how often did God send manna? What happened if the people tried to hoard the manna? What was God trying to teach Israel through this lesson?
32. Matthew 6:34 says, "Each day has trouble enough of its own." What does that mean? What trouble are you encountering today? How does God use our troubles to our own benefit?
33. What's the difference between worrying about tomorrow and making plans to improve your situation?
34. According to Matthew 6:32, there should be a difference between the concerns and values of non-believers and believers. Do you think that is largely true or, in your observation, do believers and non-believers pretty much worry and concern themselves with the same things?
35. Conclude your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray silently for someone you know who worries too much. Pray for God to prompt an opportunity for you to share your faith and help him or her to become more reliant on God's love and grace.