

# Weekly Study Guide

The week of October 27, 2013

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## Daily Readings

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Monday	Matthew 6:24	Tuesday	Matthew 6:25-27	Wednesday	Matthew 6:28-32
Thursday	Matthew 6:33-34	Friday	James 4:13-16	Saturday	1 Kings 17:7-16

*My notes on this week's readings...*

## Next Week in Worship

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**Next week's message:** *Judge Not*

**Next week's readings:** Matthew 7:1-6

Don't judge me! We live in a world that's full of judgement even while most people hardly believe in right and wrong anymore. In the midst of this confusion, Jesus gives us something better, an opportunity for both grace and growth.



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# Group Discussion

Connect	Would you say that “worry” comes naturally to you? Or are you naturally more easy going?
Learn	<p>Although today’s passage seems to start in Matthew 6:25, the train of thought really begins with 6:24. <b>Read Matthew 6:24.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jesus says that it’s impossible to serve two masters. Do you ever feel like you are pulled in two (or more!) directions in life?</li><li>• In particular, Jesus says we cannot serve both God and money. When do you think we might experience conflicts between serving God and money?</li><li>• Does this passage mean that there’s something inherently bad about money or material things? What problem do you think Jesus is driving at here?</li></ul> <p>In the next section, Jesus describes what happens when we serve money. Our hearts and minds get overly concerned with our material possessions, represented here by food and clothes. We get consumed by worry. Jesus teaches us first to turn our worry and attention away from these things. <b>Read Matthew 6:25-32.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What do you think people worry about today? What specifically money-related things do people worry about?</li><li>• Do you think Jesus’ examples here are saying that it’s wrong to have jobs or reasonable savings? Why or why not?</li><li>• V. 32 gives us a clue for understanding what Jesus had in mind when he warned against worrying. He said the pagans “run after” these things. How might this parallel between “running after” material things and “worrying” about material things help you understand what Jesus says about worry?</li></ul> <p>But Jesus doesn’t only warn us what not to do. He also teaches us what we should do. <b>Read Matthew 6:33-34.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We learned not to “run after” material things. But instead we should “seek” the Kingdom of God. How would “seeking” Kingdom priorities help us stop worrying about and running after other things?</li></ul>
Apply	Do you think you are worrying about or running after “food, drink, or clothes” in a way that reveals some conflicted priorities in your heart? Is God prompting you to trade that “running after” for some “Kingdom seeking”? How will you respond to that?
Pray	Jesus’ words were probably directed originally to people whose basic needs were mostly met and not to people in chronic poverty. Pray today for people in our communities and world who simply do not have adequate food, drink, and clothing. You might choose to pray the Lord’s Prayer and include this in your prayers for “daily bread.”