

## Jesus' House Rules – Lesson 5

### “Priorities and Trust: Kingdom Treasure & Kingdom Peace”

#### Summary

*Jesus redirects our priorities by teaching that our hearts follow whatever we treasure. In Matthew 6:19–34, He exposes the emptiness of storing up earthly wealth and the futility of living in worry. Instead, He calls kingdom people to trust the Father who provides and to seek His kingdom above all else. As we simplify life, practice contentment, and surrender our anxieties, we learn to stop chasing what the world chases and rest in the Father's care. The key question becomes: What most competes with God's kingdom for your attention or trust?*

#### Scripture

Matthew 6:19–34

### 1. Introduction

#### Opening Thought

In Week 5, Jesus turns our attention to what we treasure and what we trust. He exposes the pull of wealth, possessions, and worry—and invites us into a life where the Father's care frees us from chasing what the world chases.

#### Money, Money, Money, Money...MONEY!

The Bible emphasizes a proper relationship with money by highlighting stewardship, contentment, and generosity over greed. Key principles include trusting God as the ultimate provider, avoiding the love of money, and using wealth to do good rather than placing hope in it. Money is viewed as a tool for blessing others rather than an end goal.

Contentment vs. Greed: Focus on being content with what you have, as the love of money is a root of all evil.

- 1 Timothy 6:10: "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."
- Hebrews 13:5: "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have."
- Ecclesiastes 5:10: "Whoever loves money never has enough."

Stewardship and Trust: Recognize that God provides the ability to create wealth and everything belongs to Him.

- Deuteronomy 8:18: "But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth."
- Philippians 4:19: "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

## 2. Kingdom Treasure (vv. 19–24)

### Treasure

The place in which goods and precious things are collected and laid up: something of high value and priority.

Jesus contrasts two kinds of treasure:

- *Earthly treasure* — temporary, fragile, easily lost
- *Heavenly treasure* — eternal, secure, aligned with God’s kingdom

Key truth: *Where your treasure is, your heart follows.*

In Matthew 6:22–23, Jesus teaches that the “eye” represents a person’s focus—what they fix their attention, desire, and loyalty on. A healthy eye is single, clear, and generous; an unhealthy eye is divided, darkened, and self-focused. This directly connects to His teaching on kingdom treasure in the verses before and after. In other words:

- A kingdom-focused eye leads to a kingdom-shaped heart.
- A world-focused eye leads to a worried, divided heart.

Jesus is showing that spiritual vision and spiritual treasure are inseparable. What you look at long enough becomes what you love, and what you love becomes what you chase. You cannot serve both God and money because both demand devotion.

## 3. Don’t Worry, Be Happy (vv. 25–34)

### Anxiety

A natural human emotion characterized by feelings of worry, nervousness, unease, or fear about impending events, uncertain outcomes, or perceived threats; it is a physical and mental response.

The idea of trust over worry points back to the Lord’s Prayer:

“Give us this day our daily bread.” – Matthew 6:11

Jesus moves from treasure to trust (or faith). He commands: “Do not worry.” Not because life is easy, but because the Father knows what you need. He points to:

- Birds — cared for without storing
- Flowers — clothed without striving

Key truth: *Worry shrinks your world; trust expands it.*

Jesus reframes anxiety by calling His followers to seek first the kingdom and His righteousness. When the kingdom becomes the priority, worry loses its power.

## 4. Practical Application

Idea	Recommended Actions	Example
<b>Simplifying Life</b>	- Declutter possessions - Reduce commitments - Limit digital noise	Choosing one area of life to simplify this week—closet, schedule, or spending.
<b>Practicing Contentment</b>	- Name what you already have - Celebrate small provisions - Resist comparison	A gratitude list each morning for three simple things.
<b>Naming and Surrendering Sources of Anxiety</b>	- Identify what keeps you up at night - Bring it to God in prayer - Replace worry with kingdom focus	Writing down one anxiety and praying over it daily for a week.
<b>Seeking First the Kingdom in Daily Decisions</b>	- Choose giving over receiving - Choose trust over control - Choose obedience over convenience	Making one intentional kingdom-first decision each day—how you spend money, time, or attention.

**Walking a Tightrope:** It is generally recommended not to look down. Trainers and professionals advise looking straight ahead, toward the destination platform or the horizon, to maintain balance, stability, and focus. Continuous downward staring is considered a beginner's mistake that leads to falling.

## 5. Discussion Questions

- What earthly treasure most competes for your heart?
- How does worry show up in your life—control, fear, overthinking, or striving?
- What would it look like to “seek first the kingdom” in your daily decisions?
- Which image speaks to you more—the birds or the flowers? Why?
- What is one source of anxiety you need to name and surrender this week?

## 6. Closing Thoughts

Kingdom people don't chase what the world chases. They trust the Father who provides. When we treasure the kingdom and trust the King, our hearts find freedom from the pull of possessions and the weight of worry. Seeking first the kingdom is not a slogan—it's a way of life that leads to peace.

*“Believers should put their trust in the **source** and not the **resource**.”*

### Challenge for the Week

Answer this question: *What competes most with God's kingdom for your attention or trust?*  
Take one concrete step this week to dethrone that rival.