

Attacting the Blessing

Carl Thomas

Psalms 34; Proverbs 10:6; Matthew 5; Matthew 6:25–33; Matthew 8:26; Matthew 14:31; John 16:33; Romans 14:17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:12

Matthew 6:25–33 (NASB 2020)

25 “For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is life not more than food, and the body more than clothing?
26 Look at the birds of the sky, that they do not sow, nor reap, nor gather *crops* into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more important than they? **27** And which of you by worrying can add a single day to his life’s span? **28** And why are you worried about clothing? Notice how the lilies of the field grow; they do not labor nor do they spin *thread for cloth*, **29** yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. **30** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith! **31** Do not worry then, saying, ‘What are we to eat?’ or ‘What are we to drink?’ or ‘What are we to wear for clothing?’ **32** For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided to you.

God wants to teach us to be a container that can hold his blessings.

We have to have a vision for human flourishing that does not require us to get everything we want.

Matthew 6:27 (NASB 2020)

27 And which of you by worrying can add a single day to his life’s span?

This worrying is not going to fix anything!

Matthew 6:28–30 (NASB 2020)

28 And why are you worried about clothing? Notice how the lilies of the field grow; they do not labor nor do they spin *thread for cloth*, **29** yet I say

to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. **30** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith!

Matthew 8:26 (NASB 2020)

26 He said to them, "Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?" ...

Matthew 14:31 (NASB 2020)

31 ... "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

When you are in the boat with Jesus, you are safe no matter what the world looks like.

Matthew 6:32–33 (NASB 2020)

32 For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **33** But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided to you.

Romans 14:17 (NASB 2020)

17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

John 16:33 (NASB 2020)

33 These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the Holy Ghost.

Proverbs 10:6 (NASB 2020)

6 Blessings are on the head of the righteous,
But the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

Peter knew this. In 1 Peter he quoted Psalm 34

1 Peter 3:12 (NASB 2020)

12 "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS,
AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER,

BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST EVILDOERS.”

When you live your life chasing the blessing, it never sticks.

When you chase after God, it attacks the blessing to you in a way that sticks.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB 2020)

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *this person is* a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB 2020)

21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.