

Discussion Questions Week of 2/4/24

Text: Matthew 6:19-34

Icebreaker: This is a series about questions Jesus asked, but if you could ask Jesus any question, what would it be?

1. Read Matthew 6:19-34. What stands out to you from these verses or from the sermon you heard this week? Why?

2. Jesus asks multiple questions in verses 25-30, but our focus this week is a summary of them all: *Why are you anxious?* From these verses, what led Jesus's listeners to be anxious?

Application: What causes us to be anxious?

3. Jesus warns against storing up "treasures on earth" in verses 19-24. How would you summarize the reasons Jesus gives for this warning?¹

Application: What are common "treasures" in our culture? How might these contribute to our anxiety?

4. In verses 25-33, what does Jesus present as the answer to anxiety?

Application: Anxiety can take on different forms and have varying causes. In general, though, what link do you see between your own anxiety and your faith in God to provide?

5. What can a person do to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness?"

Application: Do you think these actions could protect us from anxiety? Why? Take time to pray for each other, that our anxieties would be replaced by faith in the God who values us greatly and who knows what we need.

¹ Note: Verses 22-23 can be tough to understand. Jesus is likely using a play on words where "healthy" can mean *generous* and "bad" can be taken as *ungenerous* or *stingy*. If we look around, then, and covet what we see, it can negatively impact our "whole body," meaning, all of life.