

## How To Escape The "Rat Race" ...

### **Forever !!!**

Selected Scriptures

#### **Series: Biblical Priorities - Part 8**

**INTRODUCTION** – Are you "clearing cobwebs" or "killing spiders?"

I. The **Root** Problem in Priority Living According to Jesus is

Matthew 6:1-18

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

Matthew 6:22-23

24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve both God and Money.

Matthew 6:24

**Summary** = Do not allow the pursuit of **material things** to thwart your **spiritual development**.

Two Motives



Two Treasures



Two Eyes



Two Masters



**Questions** = How can we live in a material world without becoming materialistic?

*24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"*

*Matthew 6:24-27*

*28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.*

*Matthew 6:28-32*

*33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

*Matthew 6:33-34*

**II. The Symptom: Anxiety** is the mark of a life preoccupied with **material things**.

**III. The Explanation: Stop your preoccupation** with material things because ...

- It's **short-sighted** – v. 25b
- It's **illogical** – v. 28-30
- It's **unprofitable** – v. 27
- It's **disgraceful to God** – v. 30-32

**IV. The Promise:** If you will **pursue** knowing Christ and **making Him known** as your **first** priority, He will meet all your material needs.  
V. 33-34

**Application:** Questions to Ponder

- Are you “spending” or “investing” your life?
- Is your life making a **significant difference** in the lives of others?
- Do you live **under** “pressure” or **under** “priorities?”
- Does your **time, talent, and treasure** reflect that **pursuing Christ** and **making Him known** is your #1 priority?

## Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think materialism is such a battleground for the priorities in our lives?
2. What aspect of this message did you most personally relate to? Why?
3. What is the relationship of worry and materialism?
4. Share what making Christ as “King” in your life looks like. What specific actions will it involve?