

40-06-01.wpd —Let Go and Let God

surrender, submission, revenge, forgiveness, worry, God's ways

Mat 6:25-34

Unless we *let go* of "our thing", we cannot *let God* do "His thing."

INTRODUCTION: (Text for Scripture reading)

–If God is King, then **v. 26** ("*do not worry about your life*") makes perfect sense, but our basic human tendency is to hold on to our life, rather than turning it over to God. This self-management habit of *holding on* can lead to having more than we can handle. *Clutter, chaos, and confusion* can result from "*doing our own thing*." **HOM.idea.**

–Among the things that can *clutter* and *confuse* our lives is **holding on to the past**. To be successful in Kingdom living, we've got to...

I. Let Go of *the Past* and Let God Bless *Our Present* (many areas)

A. One is...we must **let go of getting even and let God settle scores**

1. **Rom.12:19**, Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.
2. **Revenge is too hot for us to handle** [the OT "an eye for an eye" wasn't for "getting even" but to prevent overstepping justice] (**revenge can burn with hellish heat** [one person's vision of hell showed crowds of bitterly angry people locked in such a struggle *to get even* with each other that flames were rising from them!]) – Hell isn't just "*a state of mind*," as some think, but *vengeful mental attitudes* are the fuel of hellfire!)
3. "**God's wrath**" is His intense passion for truth–
 - a. God's love for truth is like water under such intense pressure that it can strip bark off trees [Scotia Mill] (By stepping into the path of "God's wrath" to avenge ourselves, we might just end up watching our birthday suit float downriver... skinned alive!)
 - b. God's commitment to truth is like light focused so intensely that it cuts a steel beam in half [a focused laser beam] (If we don't let go of getting even and stand out of God's way, we might soon find two halves of ourselves talking with each other in a *split personality*, cut in two by the laser beam of "God's wrath")

The carrying out of perfect "vengeance" belongs only to God. It is not human territory at all, especially for Christians. **But God wants us to go deeper than letting go of revenge....**

B. We must **let go of hurts and let God heal them** (*let go inwardly*)

1. *Bitterness, nursing old wounds, holding grudges...* are all self-destructive, like emotional cancer, spreading to all parts of life).
2. **John 20:21-23**. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."
3. By releasing others through *forgiveness*, we let go of our hurts and let God heal us and bring us into effective Kingdom living.

TRANS: There's a line in a song: "where the wrongs we have done and the wrongs done to us were nailed there with Him at the Cross." *Salvation's healing* happens when we release our sins to the power of the Cross. That same Cross is where we can *let go* of the past "*wrongs done to us*." **Unless we let go of "our thing", we cannot let God do "His thing."** We must also...

II. Let Go of *Tomorrow* and Let God Have *Today*

A. God's Kingdom is to be lived in the here and now: worrying about tomorrow steals from the work of today.

1. Most worries are unreal troubles that never occur– [Anon. quote: "The devil would have us continually crossing streams that do not exist".]
 2. God is realistic about real troubles– **v.34**, *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.* [Anon. quote: "Leave tomorrow's trouble to tomorrow's strength; tomorrow's work to tomorrow's time; tomorrow's trial to tomorrow's grace and tomorrow's God."]
- #### B. Tomorrow belongs to the King, and our trust in the King allows us to let go of tomorrow for the Kingdom living we need to do today.
1. Our plans for tomorrow are riddled with uncertainty– **Jas.4:14-15**, Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."
 2. From His eternal perspective as "I AM," God has no plans—only actions (All time, past and future, is present to God; His dealings with us *yesterday, today, and tomorrow* are occurring right now, in the present tense, which is exactly where He wants us to place our own attention, in the here and now, following Him as King.

TRANS: God wants us to **focus on** our *present communion with Him*

through *prayer* and *His Word*. He wants our minds and hearts involved in the present Kingdom call to show kindness to others in *word* and *deed*. He wants us to enjoy His present blessings right *where we are*, with the people He's placed us with, and in this present episode of life where we are right now. **Unless we let go of tomorrow, we can't let God be the King of our today!** And finally, Kingdom living means to...

III. Let Go of Our Ways and Let God Show Us His Ways

- A. [I once talked with a confused man in an empty church. He hoped to get closer to God by sitting there. I tried in vain to show him that it was Christ he needed, but he wouldn't *let go* of his own ideas and *adopt God's ideas*]. Our ideas do not define reality; God dreamed up this whole thing, and only His ideas gives our human life its meaning and its purpose.
- B. Our ways can get us lost-- Isa 53:6. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Humans are lost sheep who need a Shepherd and lost sinners who need a Savior. Jesus, our King, is both!
- C. Only God's ways can set our feet on the highway of His Kingdom –Isa 55:9, As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (If humans were really as logical as they claim to be, they would be seeking the mind of God and be willing to trade their own wayward, fallible opinions for those of the wisest and most loving Person in the universe.)

CONCLUSION:

–**Unless we let go of our thing** and *our way of thinking*, **we cannot let God**, according to *His way of thinking*, **do His thing** in our lives. And God's thinking is Kingdom thinking, which leads us to Kingdom living!

–The key to a Kingdom lifestyle is stated in v.33, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." **We let go of our own will by letting God's will be done**. **We let go of our own ways by letting God's kingdom become our first priority**.

– Can we follow the directive of our Lord, "*do not worry about your life*"? Yes, if we **let go and let God**.

Matthew 6:25-34 (NIV)

- 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?
- 26Look 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?
- 27Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?
- 28“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.
- 29Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.
- 30If 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?
- 31So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’
- 32For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.
- 33But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
- 34Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.