

# TREAD LIGHTLY

## Questions for Application for the Week of May 12, 2014

### Part 2 - Worry or Trust: Have Faith - Matthew 6:25-34

1. Matthew 6:25 begins with "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious..." Considering the passage that comes before it (Matthew 6:19-24), in what ways can the pursuit of money contribute to increased anxiety in one's life?

2. In Matthew 6:25-30, Jesus responds to the person who may be wondering how they were to support their family if they were not to pursue material wealth? How does Jesus encourage that individual and how do his examples from nature help illustrate his point? In what ways should Romans 8:32 help inform our response to trust today?

3. Contrary to the Gentiles who don't know God, we should trust that our heavenly Father knows what we need (Matthew 6:31-32). On the weekend we highlighted three realities of that truth:

- a. Your heavenly Father knows what you need and it is offensive to suggest otherwise.
- b. Your heavenly Father knows what you need but does not promise to give you all that you want.
- c. Your heavenly Father knows what you need, do not judge God's faithfulness by another's experience.

With each reality we looked at another supporting text. In order they were: Mark 9:24, Hebrews 13:5 and 1 Peter 2:19. Considering each reality and the accompanying passage, which is most applicable to you at this time and why is it so? How could you practically respond in the coming week?

4. Jesus' first and foremost corrective to reducing worry and anxiety in one's life is to seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness (Matthew 6:33). Compare and contrast Jesus' suggestion for reducing worry and anxiety with how you have seen people in our culture respond? What is the most striking difference to you between the two perspectives and how does 1 Peter 5:6-7 help to highlight what we enjoy that the world does not?

5. Far from being unrealistic, Jesus tells us to not worry about tomorrow because today has enough worries of its own (Matthew 6:34). Read Paul's prescription for dealing with anxiety in Philippians 4:5b-7. What do you find the most difficult part in his direction and how (if ever) have you experienced it to be true in your life?