

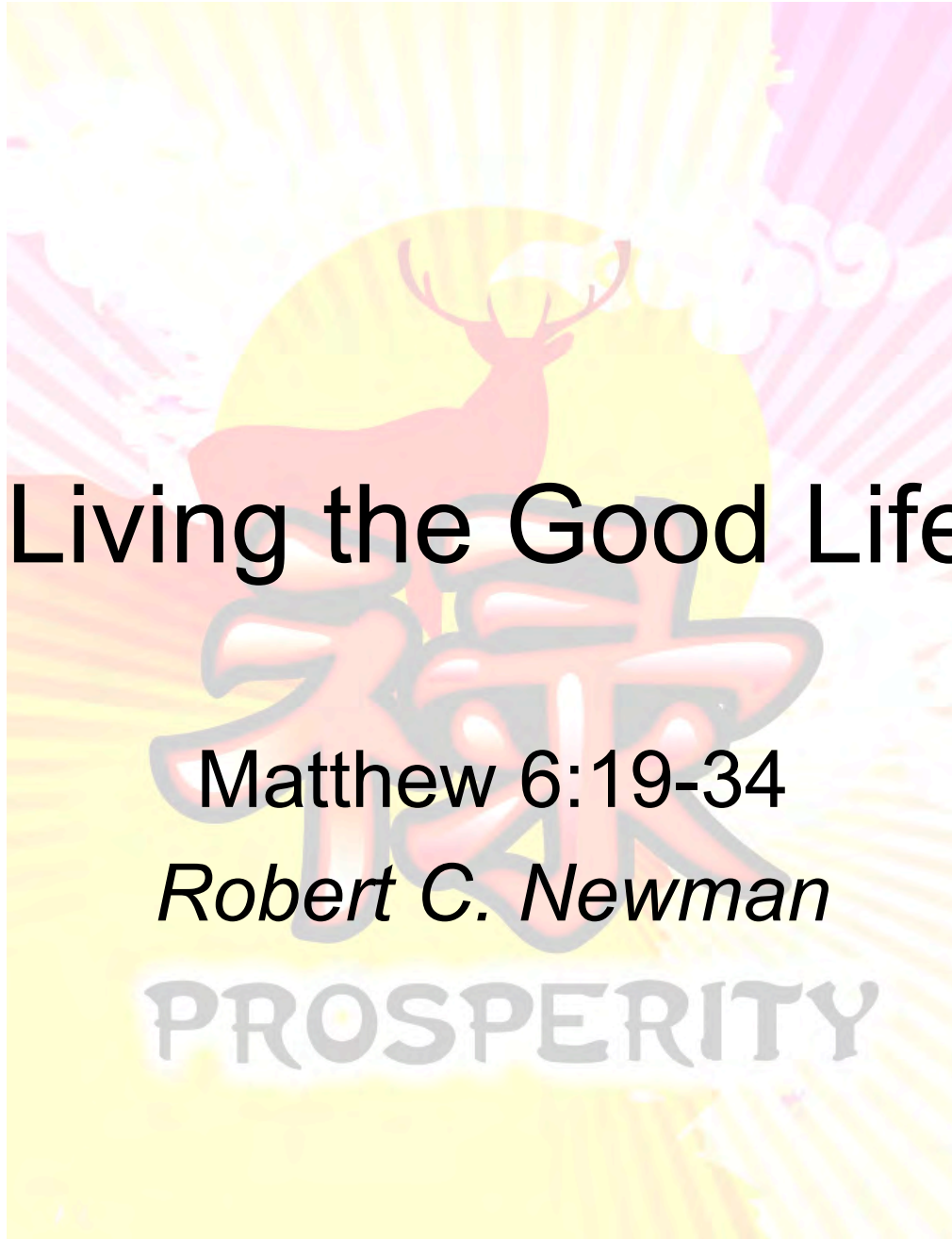


Living the Good Life

Matthew 6:19-34

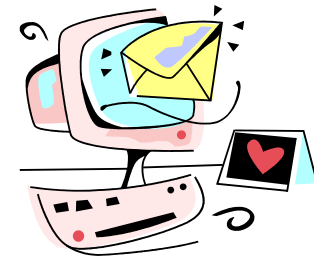
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PROSPERITY

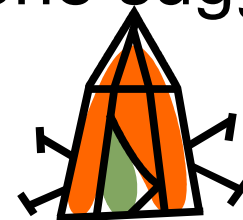


A Self-Test

- How do you react when bringing in the mail, or looking at your e-mail?
 - When you didn't get much?
 - Do you have to read everything?
 - Do you throw away some without opening?

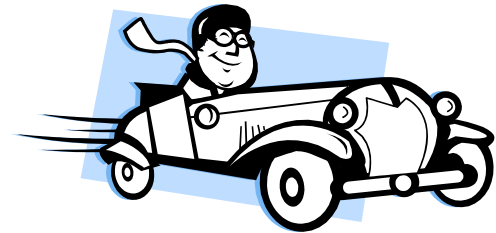


- How do you react when someone suggests:
 - A *real* camping trip?
 - A trip to a 3rd world country?
 - A trip to a 3rd world country, not staying in a hotel?
 - Going to live in a 3rd world country?



A Self-Test

- How do you react after buying a nice car?
 - You're now very worried about scratches & dents?
 - You look down on others with older, cheaper cars?
- How do you react when you buy a new dress/suit/outfit?
 - Concerned that it be the latest style?
 - Concerned about maker label?
 - Look down on others with cheaper, older clothes?



Analysis

- Does this suggest that you have some of the characteristics of people represented by the 3rd type of soil in the parable of the sower (Matt 13:7, 22)?
 - Which soil chokes the seed because of thorns?
 - Which thorns represent the worry of the world & the deceitfulness of riches?
- Wouldn't you rather have the kind of life that Jesus promises in John 10:10?
 - "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."



Where do you find your security?

Matt 6:19 (NIV) 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.

What is your purpose in life?

Matt 6:22 (NIV) 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!

Who is your real master?

Matt 6:24 (NIV) 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.

What place does worry have in your life?

Matt 6:25 (NIV) 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?

(1) Worry: Birds & Food

Matt 6:26 (NIV) 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?

(2) Worry: Flowers & Clothing

Matt 6:28 (NIV) 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?

Summary on Worry

Matt 6:31 (NIV) 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.

The Main Point

Matt 6:33 (NIV) 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.

Conclusions

- Can you let God take care of the mundane things of life, and put your emphasis on what He cares about, what really matters?
 - His rule in your life
 - Being good, like God is
- If you can, you have already begun to live the really “good life” here & now.
- If you can’t, your life is going to be cluttered with worries:
 - About things that really don’t amount to anything in the long run,
 - But they will keep you from living “life to the full.”

