

Help God! I need a job / a better job!

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Jesus said, "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. Matthew chapter 6 verses 19 - 21 (737)

- "treasures" literally means wealth
- Notice that wherever my "wealth" is...my heart will be also!
- The location (direction) of my wealth determines the location (direction) of my wealth!
- Last weekend we looked at the story of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. How do these two relate?
- Where do I put my wealth...on earth or heaven?
- Do I stop and think that my wealth affects my heart, my desire to serve & honor God?
- What changes is God asking me to make to my "wealth" and where I put my "wealth?"

Jesus said, "Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!" Matthew chapter 6 verses 22 & 23 (737)

- "eye" = vision, what guides you through life. Eyes are supposed to provide "light" (wisdom, insight) for the body, not darkness (foolishness)
- How sad to go through life following foolishness...only to realize one day that you wasted your life chasing the wrong stuff
- Spend some time working through Psalm 119:97-105. What changes or adjustments is God asking you to make in your life as a result of these verses?

Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Matthew chapter 6 verse 24 (737)

- "hate one & love the other" = love one more than the other
- "money" literally means "wealth"
- "cannot serve both" - impossible to love both, because each leads in different & contradictory directions
- What do John 14:21 and 1 John 5:1-3 teach me about what it "looks like" to love God?
- What does this mean in relation to me waiting on God for a job / a better job?

Jesus said, "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life, whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing?" Matthew chapter 6 verse 25 (737)

- Jesus says that we tend to worry about the wrong things, like money, food, earthly things
- When I worry, I make something BIGGER by concentrating on it
- Worry distracts me from thinking about & living out the important thing...eternity!

Jesus said, "Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to Him than they are?" And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are.

Matthew chapter 6 verses 26, 28 & 29 (737)

- Compared to humans, birds & flowers are short-lived and not as valuable, yet God cares for them, gives them everything they need
- If God takes care of birds & flowers, won't He take care of me?
- Birds & flowers don't worry about food or shelter or clothing or a job...why do I?
- In what areas of my life has worry become common?
- Do I realize that worry in my life means that I don't trust God to be faithful & good? In what areas of my life do I need to confess my sin of worry?
- What lessons about not worrying can I learn from the birds & flowers?

Jesus said, "Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?"

Matthew chapter 6 verse 27 (737)

- Worry does nothing to improve my quality of life!
- It doesn't make you taller or shorter or thinner or bigger or smarter or richer...and it doesn't get me a job or pay my bills. It can't change the past or control the future
- It DOES rob you of today's joys & the ability to see God's goodness & faithfulness all around me

Jesus said, "If God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, He will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?"

Matthew chapter 6 verses 28 - 30 (737)

- If I trust God with my salvation, shouldn't I trust Him with the smaller stuff...like a job?
- Is Jesus a liar?
- What does Philippians 4:19 teach me about depending on God for a job / a better job

Jesus said, "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs." Matthew chapter 6 verses 31 & 32 (738)

- People who refuse to do life with God better worry, because they're alone
- It makes sense for them to worry
- But it doesn't make sense for Christ-followers to worry

Jesus said, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today." Matthew chapter 6 verses 33 & 34 (738)

- It's OK to plan for tomorrow, but when I worry about tomorrow, I miss out on today's blessings...and the future gets overwhelming!

When it comes to needing a job / a better job, what does God want me to learn from each of the following verses? Philippians 4:6, Philippians 4:13, 2 Timothy 1:7, James 1:5, 1 Peter 5:7

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NOTES FROM INTERVIEW WITH EVAN CURRY, Jr.

What are companies looking for when they hire/promote?

1. A positive attitude
 - Suggestion: Attend Bethel every week for encouragement, and listen at home to the sermons online. <http://fmchurch.net/477142.ihtml>
2. Training
 - Get your GED and take at least 1 college/tech school course. Build your confidence and see where that leads. www.CCP.edu
3. Experience
 - Get your foot in the door of a preferred company, since companies often promote from within, before going to outsiders.
 - Volunteer, because ministry experience counts (security, greeter, nursery, etc)
4. Track record – think about what you and your team accomplished, previously.

Those who are in need of a job / better job...and they get a job interview. How would you coach them in preparing for the interview & then in presenting themselves at the interview?

- a. Before the interview:
 - Learn about the company via web searches, etc
 - Write a resume (training, experience, track record)
 - Practice interviewing with a friend
 - Visualize a good interview, like sports stars visualize hitting a homer or sinking a putt
- b. During the interview"
 - 1st impressions are the most important (dress up, cover tattoos, haircut, smile, firm handshake)
 - Be honest, be professional (speak English, not “Philadelphian”), and be friendly (but not casual)
- c. After the interview:
 - Make a follow up phone call or email in 1-2 weeks. (Don’t be a pest. Mention some new info that wasn’t covered in the interview.)

How about those waiting on God for a better job? What should they be doing now to prepare for the better opportunity that God will give them?

- Remember - You are always interviewing for jobs
 - Your boss is always watching
 - Other bosses are watching
- 1. Rarely be absent or tardy
- 2. Go the extra mile (per Jesus)
- 3. Work hard and smart (read Proverbs
<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=proverbs&version=NLT>)
- 4. Perceptions count (Walk quickly, don’t be chatty, don’t run to the time clock, etc.)
- 5. Practice what Bethel teaches about living life

What about those here who feel like they’ve been demoted or put on the “back burner” at work. It’s easy to give-up or to simply go through the motions at work when this happens. What advice would you give for this?

1. Don’t follow your instinct to quit, too quickly. Give it time.
2. Train others to do your job, so that you can be promoted.
3. Use bad times at work to invest in your education and family life.
4. Remember that God has a plan!