

Matthew 6:19-34

This section of the Bible is typically considered as addressing two areas of concern for the believer: The right way to consider your **Possessions**, and the problem of **Anxiety**. There are three topics for these concerns that Christ makes in this part of His Sermon on the Mount, organized to three very powerful conclusions:

1. Earthly Treasure
2. Anxiety About Life (regarding earthly needs)
3. Expressing Worry (regarding earthly needs)

There are only parallels from the Gospel of Luke for this portion of the Sermon on the Mount:

Parallels:

Matt. 6:19-21/Luke 12:33-34

Matt. 6:22-23/Luke 11:34-36

Matt. 6:24/Luke 16:13

Matt. 6:25-34/Luke 12:22-31

Among these parallels, these are the areas of subtle differences between the Gospel writers:

Contrasts:

Matthew	Luke
6:19 – Do not store wealth	12:33 – Sell your possessions and give alms to the poor
6:20 – store up for yourselves	12:33 – make purses for yourselves
6:20 – where thieves do not break in and steal	12:33 – where no thief comes near
6:20 – where no moth nor rust consumes	12:33 – no moth destroys
6:23 – if then the light in you is darkness	11:35 – consider whether the light in you is darkness
6:25 – what you will eat or drink	12:22 – what you will eat
6:26 – birds of the air	12:24 – the ravens
6:31 – do not worry saying ...	12:29 – do not keep striving for ...
6:32 – the Gentiles	12:30 – the nations of the world
6:33 – but strive first for the Kingdom of God and His righteousness	12:31 – instead, strive for His Kingdom

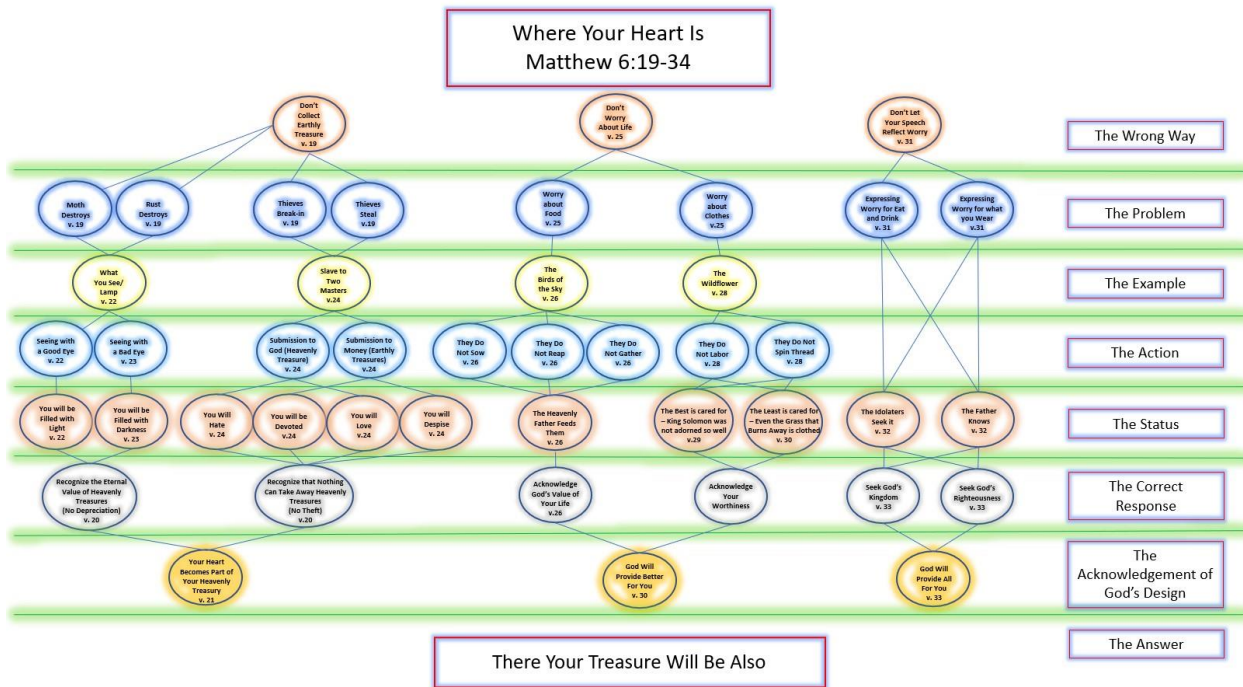
The organization of this section is one of the most profound among Matthew's writings of the Gospel, although this structure is not often grasped because of the length of the passage. After reading the passage, look below to see how precisely this direction is delivered.

Matthew 6:19-34 (CSB)

19 "Don't 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 neither moth nor rust

destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light within you is darkness, how deep is that darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. 25 "Therefore I tell you: Don't worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Consider the birds of the sky: They don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they? 27 Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? 28 And why do you worry about clothes? Observe how the wildflowers of the field grow: They don't labor or spin thread. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. 30 If that's how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won't he do much more for you—you of little faith? 31 So don't worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. 34 Therefore don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

See here how precisely this section is addressed, justified, and concluded:



This is obviously very small and possibly difficult to read from this page, so consider downloading the PDF of just this chart to read alongside the passage in your Bible.

There are three words I want to highlight from this passage that you may consider for deeper meditation or reflection:

Matthew 6:23 – **evil**, **πονηρός**, ponéros, (phonetic: pon-ay-ros') **evil**, bad, wicked, malicious, slothful. (Strong's 4190)

And a different Greek word for “evil” eleven verses later:

Matthew 6:34 – **evil**, **κακία**, kakia, (phonetic: kak-ee'-ah), evil (i.e., **trouble**, labor, misfortune), wickedness, vicious disposition, malice, spite. (Strong's 2549)

Matthew 6:34 – **worry**, **μεριμνήσητε**, merimnésete, (phonetic: mer-im-nay-se-te), to be **anxious**, to care for, distracted. (Strong's 3309)

Look at these words in the context of the verses, and see if there is a different meaning you see as you consider the full meaning of these words.

The passage ends with the point having been clearly made – but after all of that, the summation is still so perfect that the verse is often memorized and adequate unto itself.

Matthew 6:34 (again):

Therefore don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.