

Matityahu 6h

Don't worry, be happy!

Yeshua completes his discourse on money by exhorting his audience to focus their minds on heavenly things and to allow God to handle the temporal needs.

v25

'Therefore' - Yeshua connects vs 19-24 to the following conclusion.

'I tell you' - listen carefully!

This is Yeshua's promise, to care for our physical needs. Not just a promise, but a guarantee!

'don't worry about...' - Worry, focusing your mind on physical needs, robs time and energy away from haShem, who deserves all the attention we can give.

Worrying about your physical needs, after being told by Yeshua that God will care for you, shows a lack of faith in God's abilities.

'your life' - Gr *psuche* Heb *nefesh* soul.

'Isn't life more than...?' - Place your mind on things that are greater than mere survival; the joys of life, happiness, worshipping a loving God.

v26-30

Yeshua begins a *kal v'chomer* illustration.

Kal v'chomer means 'small to large', taking an item from everyday life to point out a more heavenly truth.

This is a common rabbinic form of teaching.

The parables fit into this kind of illustration.

v26

'birds of the air' - He gives the beast its food and to the young ravens which cry. T'hillim (Psalms) 147:7-11

- Psa 147:7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
Sing praises on the harp to our God,
- Psa 147:8 Who covers the heavens with clouds,
Who prepares rain for the earth,
Who makes grass to grow on the mountains.
- Psa 147:9 He gives to the beast its food,
And to the young ravens that cry.
- Psa 147:10 He does not delight in the strength of the horse;
He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man.
- Psa 147:11 The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,
In those who hope in His mercy.

‘Arent you worth more than they are?’ - With no apologies to the animal rights movement, Yeshua states clearly haShem thinks much more highly of us than of the animals.

Simon b. Eleazar: Have you ever seen an animal or bird practicing a craft? Yet they have their sustenance without care and were not created to serve my Maker. How much more then [*kal v'chomer*] ought not I to have my sustenance without care. Kiddushin 4.4

v27

Here is a mixed metaphor. Some translations say “Can anyone add a cubit to his height?” and others state “Can anyone add an hour to his life?”

Cubit (Gr. *pechys*). Age (Gr. *helikia*). ‘Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his life-span?’

Either way, the point is worry does not accomplish anything of value.

v28-30

This is a similar idea to v26, using flowers as a *kal v'chomer* illustration.

Shlomo (Solomon) king of Yisrael. His wealth is legendary, exemplary of opulence.

‘What little trust you have’

Whoever has a morsel of bread in a basket and says, ‘What shall I eat tomorrow’ is of those who has little faith. Babylonian Talmud Sotah 48b

He who has what he will eat today and says ‘What shall I eat tomorrow’, behold, this man lacks faith. Mekilta de R Shimon b Yochai on Sh’mot (Exodus) 16.4

“And Moses said to him, ‘Let no man leave of it till the morning.’

Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses, these were those of little faith among the Israelites”. Mekilta de R Shimon b Yochai on Sh’mot (Exodus) 16.9

v31-34

Yeshua concludes the matter by summing up the “questions of life”.

v32

‘pagans’ - lit. people of the land. Can refer to Gentiles or country folk. Suggests unlearned or faithless people in this context.

v33

Keep your focus on the heavenly things, God will care for your earthly needs.

v34

Mishle (Proverbs) 27:1 Fret not over tomorrow’s trouble, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

“...peradventure tomorrow he is no more, thus he shall be found grieving over a world that is not his.” Babylonian Talmud Sanhedrin 100b

‘evil’ – trouble – Yid. *tsuris*