



THEME

Honest Attempts @ Following Jesus > **A Stronger anchor than Circumstance + Things**

ANCHORED TO TRUTH

Hebrews 6:18-20, Hebrews 12:1-2, Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, **Acts 16:16-34**, 2 Corinthians 6:4-10, **Matthew 6:19-33**

CONVERSATION

1. You might remember the story Kevin told about “the Green Machine” > have you ever had an experience like that > going from super happy to wickedly disappointed in a moment?
2. Our happiness rests its’ weight on circumstances + things > what are some of the most common things our happiness leans on?
3. Is there a connection between where we anchor our happiness and what makes us anxious? Explain.
4. Check out **Matthew 6:19-33**

19 “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

22 “Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. 23 But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

24 “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 God and be enslaved to money.

25 “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? 26 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? 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

28 “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, 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30 And 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?

31 “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

5. If you were on a high rappel + saw the anchor start to wiggle > how would that make you feel?
 - a. We know the things we treasure are often temporary + easily lost > why do we keep anchoring our hope, trust, happiness + even purpose to them?

6. What are some practical steps we can take to anchor ourselves to hope that is beyond circumstances + things?
7. If you were hopeful + joy filled despite really tough circumstances > how would that change your everyday life?
 - a. How could that be "light" for people you have a connection with?
 - b. What kind of questions does that kind of attitude make people ask?
8. What is the Kingdom of God?
 - a. How can pursuing it above everything else give us "everything" we need?
 - b. What could we do to help ourselves remember + believe that to be true?

RESPOND:

- > Identify 1 circumstance or thing you can start to take your weight off this week?
 - What action can we take to begin to pull our weight off of it?
- > Take time to **pray for** & encourage each other about all the things you've just explored.
 - Maybe some of us would feel comfortable enough to share what we're discouraged + anxious about right now.

*the Kingdom of God (question #8) is: the range of God's effective will > where people are making honest attempts at the challenges he's asked us to climb. Jesus spent most of his ministry describing this Kingdom & inviting people into it.