

Luke 12:29; 34

God is centering us again (and again) so that we will treasure Him again (and again).

Love the Story, Live the Story, Advance the Story

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- What tends to compete with Jesus for the center of your life?
- What is the Kingdom of God? How is it revealed and entered into?
- Jesus exposes two idols in Matt 6:19-34 – materialism and worry (our desire for control). Why is it so hard to identify these idols (and others) in our life?
- Read Matt 6:21. How can we cultivate a deeper affection and greater appreciation for the treasure Jesus Christ is?
- How does living for Christ lead to meaning and purpose in life? How does living for yourself actually rob you of true joy, hope and meaning?
- Why would non-Christians look at Christ-centered living as foolishness? Does this influence the way you live your life?
- Compare the differences between a Christian who places theology and rules at the center to one who has Jesus at the center. Which most describes you?
- How does *seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness* affect the way you make day-to-day decisions?
- On your own: Read Colossians chapter 1 slowly asking for a clearer view of the true God of Scripture.

The Center of It All

Matthew 6:19-34

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What Defines You? What are you centering your life around?

What's competing with Jesus for the center of your life?

Matthew 6:19-34

Our lives are to be centered on the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.
One desire - one passion – one priority: the good news of the saving reign of God!

1. The center is reserved

We *will* be tempted to place the idol of materialism at the center (6:19-24)

Louie Giglio: "How do you know where and what you worship? It's easy. You simply follow the trail of your time, your affection, your energy, your money and your allegiance...Sure, not too many of us walk around saying, "I worship my stuff. I worship my job. I worship this pleasure. I worship her. I worship my body. I worship me!" But the trail never lies."

We *will* be tempted to place the idol of worry at the center

Philippians 4:4-6

God knows what we're prone to freak out over.

1 Peter 5:6-7

Worry implies that we don't actually believe God is big enough, powerful enough or loving enough to actually take care of His own.

2. The center must be restored

This is about the rule and reign of King Jesus in and over our entire lives.

Jesus *is* himself God's message – Jesus is everything God wants to say to the world *in a person!*

It's not a one-time response, but a daily response, a life-defining response!

The problem: Something else or someone else has taken that central place that belongs to Jesus OR something else is fighting to do so.

Jesus + something/ someone else = Syncretism =

Idolatry

Tedd Trip: "*The greatest beauty, the highest value, the deepest satisfaction, the longest lasting joy, the most satisfying delights, the most fulfilling pleasures, the most wonderful friendships, the most satisfying experiences are not found in going places, doing things, and owning things. They are found in knowing God.*"

The solution: a clearer view of the true God of Scripture

Christians are people who let the *reality* of Jesus change everything about who they are, how they live, how they speak, what they do, what they laugh at, why they do what they do and what they hope in.

3. The center must be protected

We have to KEEP seeking FIRST (above all else) the Kingdom.