

**FIRST THINGS FIRST – PART 1:
LETTING JESUS LEAD WHAT WE HOLD
SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 6:19–34 & ROMANS 12:1–2
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SEPTEMBER 12 & 13, 2026**

I. MONEY & MASTERS

- Matthew 6:19-21 NLT, “Don’t store up treasures here on earth...Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”
- Jesus isn’t interested in money. He’s inviting us to invest in something beyond here and now.
- Matthew 6:24 NLT, “No one can serve two masters...You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”
- Jesus is saying:
 - Money, Possessions & Status will either serve you or rule you.
 - Money makes fantastic servants, but terrible masters.
- Just because we don’t think we have much doesn’t mean that what we have doesn’t own us.

II. FAITH, WORRY, AND THE FUTURE

- Matthew 6:25-27 NLT, “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life...Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?”
- The question isn’t *if* you place your faith in something or someone, the question is what do you place your faith in?
- Do we place our trust in Him, or do we fear He won’t provide?

- Matthew 6:31-34 NLT, “...Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously...”
- When we obsess about tomorrow, we fail to be present today.

III. FAITH, WORRY, AND THE FUTURE

- Romans 12:1 NIV
 - Because of God’s mercy, this requires an inventory of the good things God has provided and the harmful things God has protected you from.
- Romans 12:2 NIV
 - We should look different, spend different and live different than the world—not for the sake of being different, but because we have been changed by HIM.
 - If we are not different, are we truly transformed?
- We are managers of something we do not own.
- Romans 12:3 NIV, “...think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.”
- Our measurement of maturity is how much faith have we received.

CLOSE

- Ask yourself:
 - What owns me? (*Matthew 6:24*)
 - What am I trusting? (*Matthew 6:25-34*)
 - Am I willing to see clearly? (*Romans 12:1-2*)
 - Who owns it all anyway? (*Psalms 24:1-2*)
- We are responsible before Jesus to be aware of what He has given us and where it is going.