



## **Our Father Cares**

Matthew 6:11

Big Idea for the Series: The goal is to develop prayer lives that reflect true followers of Jesus. Not selfish, religious, dutiful prayer lives but sincere, reverent, God-seeking prayer lives.

Today's Bottom Line: God really does care.

### Introduction

Does God really care? Of course He cares...

Luke 12:7, "Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

Matthew 6:25-30, "Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

### The Challenge

The challenge is not, "Does God really care?" That's usually pretty easy to overcome. The challenge has to do with what we really need.

Need is relative, isn't it? What some poor person needs in Cambodia or Ethiopia or the Philippines is quite different from what we need in America.

As Americans, we really don't know what "need" is. We've never experienced real hunger. We may have lived with shortages, but never poverty in any real sense.

The average US welfare payment puts you in the top 20% of all income earners **in the world**. Half of the people in the world live on \$8 or less per day. That's less than **\$3,000 per year**.

So, when we take a moment and speak about "Give us today our daily bread," part of the problem may be we really don't understand what Jesus is talking about.

Our prayers and God's will **must** be aligned.

Real needs can be so difficult to see in the mirror.

We can see them in others, but what do we see in ourselves?

I'm **not** convinced we have as much of a **need** problem as we might a **reality** problem. Could the reason why we don't get as many answers to prayer be that we're not praying for the right thing?

### Insight

It is quite marvelous to understand that the God who created the entire universe, who is the God of all space and time and eternity, who is infinitely holy, perfect, and completely self-sufficient, should care at all about supplying our physical needs. The fact that God would be concerned that we receive enough food to eat, clothes to wear, and a place to rest is a bit mind blowing.

But ... God obligates Himself to supply our **needs**. You see, "bread" not only represents our necessary food but it is symbolic of all our physical and spiritual needs.

Perhaps our first prayer should be Romans 8:26, "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Holy Spirit himself intercedes for us ..."

We all have needs, but they may not be quite what we think we need.

Inventory your life and align your prayers with what God says you need.

### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Memorize Matthew 6:11**
- Inventory Your Life**
- Align Your Prayer with God's Desires for You**