**RISE UP** in 2021

February 21, 2021

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**What’s Your Why?**

**Does God really care about me?**

Matthew 6



We are in a series of messages **What’s Your Why?** What is it that God created you to do and what gets in the way? In part one of this series we said …

Everyone has a **hole** that keeps them from being **whole**.

There is a hole **that only God can fill**. Sin continually punches holes in our lives and sin will lead us down the path of a shadow mission, trying to pursue and meet the needs of our lives on our own, in our own pursuit of what we believe will make us feel better about ourselves and our lives. In the second part of this series, we are answering the question:

**Does God really care about me?** Does He care about all that I am going through? 2020 was a really hard year; 2021 has not been much better and then this week’s weather has been really hard **for a lot of people**.

Do you ever feel like King David when he wrote in Psalm 22?

*My God, my God,* ***why have you forsaken me****? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?* Psalm 22:1

In a world of suffering and sorrow, sickness and sadness, we hear the promise of a Savior: **Jesus – He is the one who cares**. He is the one who gives life; He is the one who is with us.

When we find our **life** in Jesus, we can **trust** Jesus with the **life** we have found.

Therefore … He had just talked with the disciples about giving to others, humble and faith filled prayer, treasures, and about the light and darkness that leads to surrender and service to a singular master … and then it all comes down to …

Do you **trust** me to take care of you?

*Therefore I tell you,* ***do not be anxious about your life****, what you will* ***eat*** *or what you will* ***drink****, nor about your body, what you will* ***put on****. Is not* ***life more than food****, and the* ***body more than clothing****?* Matthew 6:25

**Anxious** – Merimnao – to be worried about misfortune, to have an unhealthy preoccupation with something; overly concerned.

*Look at* ***the birds*** *of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet* ***your heavenly Father feeds them****.* ***Are you not of more value than they****? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?* Matthew 6:26–27

*And* ***why are you anxious about clothing****? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven,* ***will he not much more clothe you****, O* ***you of little faith****?* Matthew 6:28-30

When **feelings** and **facts** seem to contradict each other, we need **faith**.

***Humble*** *yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him,* ***because he cares for you****.* 1 Peter 5:6–7

***Therefore*** *do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For* ***the Gentiles seek after all these things****, and* ***your heavenly Father knows that you need them all****.* Matthew 6:31-32

**Remember** … when we find our life in Jesus, we can trust Jesus with the life we have found.

Why is this teaching so important to discovering and living into our why? Because …

If I am so busy worrying about **me**, I will have little time for **God** and less time to care about **you**.

*But* ***seek first the kingdom of God*** *and* ***his righteousness****, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore* ***do not be anxious about tomorrow****, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.* Matthew 6:33–34

For those of us who have found our lives in Jesus, we trust Jesus with the life we have found and we see that …

Wherever **help** comes from… it is help from **God**.

Help is not just help, kindness or someone’s generosity … help is our God’s compassion, care and kindness.

*For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, “Fear not,* ***I am the one who helps you****.”* Isaiah 41:13

If you trust God to **care** for you … you will find that His care will **flow** through you.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and* ***God of all comfort****,* ***who comforts us in all our affliction****, so that* ***we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction****, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.* 2 Corinthians 1:3–4

When you show God **cares**, it makes God’s message **real**.

*Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father,* ***inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world****. For* ***I was hungry and you gave me food****, I was* ***thirsty and you gave me drink****, I was* ***a stranger and you welcomed me****, I was* ***naked and you clothed me****, I was* ***sick and you visited me****, I was* ***in prison and you came to me****.’* Matthew 25:34–37

*Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘****Lord, when*** *did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly,* ***I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me****.’* Matthew 25:38–40

**Next step to discovering your why …**

* Find your **why** through **life** in Jesus.
* Trust Jesus with the **life** you have found.
* Give **thanks** for God’s care in your life.
* Ask God to **flow** His care through your life to those in need.