

Saint Thomas and Saint Thomas of the Air Church
Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 13, 2026

Be not anxious for your life . . .
O ye of little faith

Today we resume the Summer Survey of Essential Christian
Doctrine

With the final visit to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.
And the last installment of St Paul's Epistle to the Galatians.

Jesus challenges us with a choice:

We can serve Mammon, or
We can serve God.
But we cannot serve both God and Mammon.

His audience of 2000 years ago knew exactly what Jesus meant by
Mammon.

But we may be a little fuzzy on the concept.

In ancient times, some of the pagan peoples made-up a god they
called; Mammon.

He was the god of wealth,
But in the exaggerated sense bordering on avarice, greed.
They even made a statue of Mammon
That they could bow down to and worship
Seeking to easily gain wealth and plenty.

In modern times, can the same be said of us?

We may lack the statue
But do we worship Mammon in our lives to the exclusion
Of our Lord?

We are the world's biggest consumers.

Researchers have said that we, as parents spend more time
Shopping than we do with our children.

Certainly social media bears it out among our teens.
The mindless pictures of their purchases flood the airwaves
Searching for attention, recognition
Status.
Their clothing,
Torn jeans, purses, jewelry, even shoes
Shout the names of expensive designers
As if the very things they wear symbolize the money
They paid for them.
Symbols of Mammon?
Or the overpowering desire for wealth?
Symbols that somehow testify of the value
Of the person who wears them.

You know, our Maker knows us so well.
Jesus speaks to His concern for our nature.
We are so easily disquieted,
distracted
and develop distrustful cares about our lives
that interrupt the life God intended for us.

It reminds me of a time when I was a boy and was downtown in
Walnut Creek
It was this time of year
In the days when we actually still had walnut trees
And we actually celebrated their harvest
With a Walnut Festival.

I was watching the Walnut Festival Parade down Main Street
And had arranged that my Mother would pick me up
after the parade at a designated time and place.

My Mother was late and
 I waited there beyond the time that a boy will wait
 And gave up and walked home,
 which was not too far away.

In the meanwhile, Mom was frantically looking for me
 And when we both arrived home
 Among the comments
 Which were rich,
 but not entirely appropriate for this discussion,
 there was the clear message that she was so terribly hurt
 that I could think she would not come for me, ever.

Knowing how much she loved me,
 How could I believe that she could not come for me as she
 said she would?

In a way, that's what Jesus is concerned about in today's lesson.

The Sermon on the Mount was revolutionary.
 With it, Jesus introduced radical doctrine
 That was off putting for many
 who gathered to hear it.

It outlined a new life
 A new pathway to God.
 That is why we go to it time and again during the Trinity
 Season Survey of Essential Christian Doctrine

The Sermon contradicted some ancient religious thinking of the
 Jews

 but advanced ancient Jewish Law.
 Without contradicting it, He brought it forward.
 The people who heard it must have been awestruck.
 Matthew devotes three full chapters of his book to the Sermon.
 It is wide ranging, discussing a myriad of topics.

Some abandoned Jesus after they heard his Sermon on the Mount.
Some gathered to hear more.

In the portion of the Sermon that is the Gospel for today,
Jesus offers His advice,
 His consolation
 For those times in our lives when we become
 Disquieted,
 Distracted,
 And Distrustful
 Of God's loving Hand in our lives.

Sometimes we do it to ourselves
And sometimes it seems that satan himself
 Gets us off the page.
Our minds become clouded and overcome.
 We blot out the joy that we have in God
 And become hurried and worried.
 Anxious.
We loose sleep and dampen the joy that God intends us to feel
 As we focus ourselves on the mundane
 And material aspects of our lives.
It is not that such things as hunger, shelter and nakedness
 Are not important.
 Or should be irrationally or blissfully ignored.

The part of our nature to which Jesus points us
 Is the obsession with those things,
 To the exclusion of any consideration of how God
 Has already prepared us for those times.
 How He will restore us and guide us through them.

Jesus tells us four times in this short snippet from the Sermon on the Mount
 "Be not anxious for your life".

He offers an analogy to the birds of the air,
To the lilies of the field
And to the grass of the field.

He scolds us
“O ye of little faith”.

If God cares for them,
How could he not care for you?
How could I think my Mother would not care for me
As I waited for her on the Streets of Walnut Creek?

As my Mother almost tearfully explained to me after the Parade,
How could we ever think that God’s love
Would ever be insufficient for us?

But isn’t that just what we do sometimes?
Sometimes over insignificant things but sometimes over things of
greater significance.
In today’s Epistle St Paul speaks of the distraction
That had the Galatians off the page.

Jesus knows us well
And the way we become anxious,
turn away from our faith,
turn away from God
and worry about secular things to His exclusion in our lives.

But God does not treat us the way He does the birds and the
flowers.

He provides for us in a more permanent and fundamental way.
Instead of feeding us, and sheltering us directly,
God provides us with our opportunity to labor
Which He has made our duty
And then blesses that labor for the means of our lives.

Some say we got work, not worms.

So it is our God Given talents,
intellect,
conscience
and liberties,
That sustain us.

Unlike the lower animals of God's creation
We are self-reliant.
creations of God
that still rely on His Grace and His Love.

So do not expect God to send Door Dash with your next meal.

And do not expect that Wilks-Bashford or Saks
Will be delivering your Fall Wardrobe any time soon.

But do expect this:

As Jesus said in the Sermon:
"...your Heavenly Father knoweth
that ye have need of all these things.
But seek ye first, His Kingdom
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you".

In those moments when all seems lost
And you can not take the next step
Seek His Kingdom
And His Righteousness.

Turn to God
In prayer
In the sacraments

And here is some 2000 year old advice:
“And which of you by being anxious
can add one cubit
unto the measure of you life”.

In these times when our lives are pressured
And we seem almost infected with the “stress”
Of our lives,
Here is the Son of God
With advice:

Our lives, by any measure:
Its length
Breadth
Substance
Or quality
Cannot be increased one cubit
One day
One dollar
Or one smile
By worrying for being anxious.

So enjoy the Parade
And know that if you can keep your heart and mind
In knowledge and love of God
When it's over
He'll be there to pick you up
And take you home.