

Question 4

- a) Jesus sets out God as Creator and sustainer of that creation. Both examples given reflect the sort of things we take for granted.
- b) Have we ever stopped to think where the ability to survive for birds and flowers comes from?
- c) No bird was made in the image of God; but man was! That is what Jesus means when He asks *“Are you not of more value than they”*.
- d) The reference to the lilies of the field and their beauty is a reminder of God’s providence and His attention to detail.
- e) If He does that for flowers; how much more will He do it for His children!

Question 5

- a) The ironic thing here is that in human terms worry can shorten our lives rather than increase them.
- b) The length of our life is in the hands of God.
- c) Death presents no fear for the believer. (**1 Cor 15:55**).
- d) This verse emphasises the futility of trusting self rather than God.

Question 6

- a) Jesus is suggesting that a life of worry rather than trust is an irrational approach for the believer.
- b) ‘Faith’ here is not that which saves us, but an ongoing trust and reliance. We believe that God can redeem us; that God can save us from sin; that He can break the chains of Satan; that He can save us from hell to heaven and give us eternal life. But then we can at the same time act as though we don't think He can provide us with our everyday needs now!
- c) Put like that it sounds pretty ridiculous (**Rom 8:32**).

Obeying the command of Jesus here not to be anxious could be said to be easier said than done. But that does not mean we are right to worry. As we shall see next time, our focus must be in the right place.

Question 1

- a) Our treasure is in heaven and is therefore permanent (v20).
- b) Earthly things are temporary and will wear out or be destroyed (v19).
- c) Jesus has previously shown that material things can become an idol. The need for more that arises from this can then become a source of worry.
- d) Jesus is not advocating irresponsibility by suggesting that it should not concern us to provide for our family etc. It is about trust.
- e) In verse 24 we have had to make a choice between God and money. Now we have to work it out in practice.

Question 2

- a) Being anxious is about worrying. The uncertainty concerns us.
- b) The idea of the original word is ‘tearing apart’. Worrying sends us in different directions meaning uncertainty.
- c) John MacArthur writes: *“worry is the equivalent of saying, God I know You mean well by what You say but I'm just not sure You can pull it off. Worry is the sin of distrusting the promise and the providence of God, and yet we do it all the time”*.

Question 3

- a) Don’t overlook the fact that these verses are not about luxuries that we can do without; but about necessities for life.
- b) However, concerns about material things can become so important to us that we fail to see what is more important.
- c) Jesus will go on to urge his listeners in verse 33 to seek the important things; things that pertain to eternal life.