

**DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE SCORE**  
**Loosening Your Grip IV**  
**Matthew 6:25-34**

**INTRODUCTION**

- A. There are some Bible verses difficult to reconcile in “today’s” world.
  - 1. Rich Young Ruler, “...*sell all you possess, give to the poor, come follow me.*”
    - a. Luke 18:18-22
  - 2. Many will argue, “...but that’s not realistic today!”
  - 3. James A. Harding, Gospel preacher in late 1800s.
    - a. Helped establish David Lipscomb and Potter College (Harding).
    - b. “Not right to put aside money for future, shows a lack of trust.”
- B. Must reconcile our lifestyle today with what Jesus taught.
  - 1. Mt. 6:25-34 – God will take care of you.
  - 2. Are we abiding by these words, or have we bought into the way the world thinks?

**I. KEEPING SCORE.**

- A. Why is Winning So Important?
  - 1. Life, as a whole, seems to be spent in “getting ahead – no matter the cost.”
  - 2. When we keep score, it keeps us in control.
  - 3. Camp kickball game – Tidal River, Conn.
    - a. Had lost the fun of the game.
    - b. More concerned with winning – leading to arguments.
- B. Comparing With the Family in Galilee.
  - 1. From first century, and we are from the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
    - a. Sandals compared to our Reeboks, Adidas, Skechers.
      - i. Remember the high-top Converse?
    - b. Open fire compared to our microwave.
    - c. Donkey compared to our Chevy Traverse or Nissan Pathfinder, 25-30 mpg.
  - 2. Mt. 6:19 – storing up treasures.
    - a. Galilean family had little in the way of material wealth.
    - b. We are hopelessly caught up in worldly goods.
      - i. Looking for the next new tech phone, watch, TV, etc.
    - c. He could teach his kids a profession.
    - d. We must pay for our children’s schooling.
  - 3. Mt. 6:26 – look at the birds of the air...
    - a. Their fields provided for all they needed.
    - b. We work jobs 8-5 to just make ends meet.
  - 4. Mt. 6:30 – will He not clothe...
    - a. Blue-jeans as opposed to flowing robes.
    - b. Our lives seem to call for more complicated wardrobe.
      - i. Work clothes and leisure – a closet full.
      - ii. They had undergarments, a robe and cloak.
  - 5. Mt. 6:33 – Seek first His kingdom...
    - a. Maybe easy for Galilean family – not much to give up.
    - b. We would give up a tremendous amount of wealth.

**6. There seems to be no way to win!!!**

**C. The Perfect Scorekeeper.**

1. There is one other that is keeping score.
  - a. Mt. 6:21 – Where your treasure is...
  - b. Mt. 6:26 – are you not worth much **more**.
  - c. Mt. 6:30 – **much more** clothe you?
  - d. Mt. 6:32 – He knows you need **all** these things.
  - e. Mt. 6:33 – **All these things** will be added...
2. More convincing words:
  - a. Jn. 10:10 – life **abundant**...
  - b. Lk. 18:29-30 – receive **many times** as much...
  - c. Rom. 8:28 – **all things** to work together for good...
  - d. Phil. 4:6-7 – peace of God, **surpasses all**...
  - e. Lk. 6:38 – Give, and it will be **given** you...

**II. PLAYING TIPS.**

**A. Enjoy the Game.**

1. The more I try to control, the more impossible it becomes.
2. Question, “Who is in control?”
  - a. Example of Abraham and his wealth.
  - b. Mt. 6:33 – Seek first His kingdom.

**B. Let God Change Your Goals.**

1. When God is in control, what we want begins to change.
  - a. Ps. 37:4, “*Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart.*”
2. What is truly important begins to change.
3. No longer playing the game, **we’ve already won.**

**C. Don’t Worry About the Score, Just Play the Game.**

1. We no longer need to worry about being in control.
  - a. Ps. 37:5, “*Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him and He will do it.*”
3. Mt. 6:33 – Seek first His kingdom...