

## **Introduction**

- Pattern of the kingdom that Jesus is establishing is:
  - **simple, daily dependence on the Father**
- But this pattern necessarily raises a whole series of "what about..." questions
  - what about... **my possessions, my goals, my money, my future?**
  - all these things weigh heavy upon us...
  - we have responsibilities...
  - **how can I live in simple trust when there is, frankly, so much to worry about?!?!?**
- Jesus suggests a kind of spiritual health-check to point us to a better way of living:
  - a quiz with four questions!
  - **1: What are you investing in?**
  - **2: What have you set your sights on?**
  - **3: Whom are you serving?**
  - **4: What keeps you awake at night?**
- Each of these touches on an area that for many of us will be a raw nerve!
  - compare to health check at doctors
  - identify issues that might need addressed - eg high blood pressure, or diet, or whatever
  - value is in how we respond to the questions!
  - **ignore?** or **change?**

### **Question 1: What are you investing in? (v.19,20)**

- What is it for you?
  - property?
  - possessions?
  - or the priority of God's will in your life?

### **Question 2: What have you set your sights on? (v.22,23)**

- What do we set our sights on?
  - what do we day-dream about?
  - the glossy promises of a thousand adverts?
  - or the simple goals of the purposes of God?

### **Question 3: Whom are you serving? (v.24)**

- What place does money have in your thinking?
- Who is your boss?
  - cash.... or your creator?

### **Question 4: What keeps you awake at night? (v.25ff)**

- The things that bring us anxiety will more often than not tell us where our hearts are truly headed!
  - what fills our minds as we lie awake at night?
  - our own needs?
  - or the grace and glories of God?

## **Conclusion**

- In each and every case, Jesus' prescription is the same:
  - **invest in the kingdom**
  - **But more than anything else, put God's work first and do what he wants. Then the other things will be yours as well. (v.33, CEV)**
  - **But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (v.33, NIV)**
- Invest in the **kingdom**. Set your sights on the **kingdom**. Serve the **kingdom**. Let the **kingdom** fill your mind.
  - here is Jesus way (v.34): **put God first, sleep in peace**

