Praying Worry Away

As a child, who worried about you more: a parent or a sibling?

Read Matthew 6:1—34.

1. What does it mean to give your gifts in secret (vs. 4)?

1. Do it anonymously.
2. Don’t be bragging about it.
3. Give up your IRS tax deduction.
4. Use gift cards.
5. Don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.
6. Turn over your donation funds to someone else to choose for you.
7. Cast lots to determine the amount and recipients of your gift(s).
8. Never have your name mentioned or engraved because of a gift.
9. Other.

2. Who taught you to pray?

1. Nobody.
2. I’ve picked up little things here and there.
3. My parents taught me this while I was growing up.
4. Jesus.
5. I had to teach myself.
6. Pagans.
7. I’ve learned what to do and what not to do by observing others.
8. I could use some help.
9. Other.

3. Why did Jesus repeat the forgiveness theme in vs. 14-15?

1. It’s super-important, so it needs repeating for emphasis.
2. Most people won’t take it to heart in the heart of “The Lord’s Prayer.”
3. Jesus forgot he had already mentioned it.
4. Some of his listeners weren’t listening very well right then.
5. The context changed.
6. Jesus wanted forgiveness to be a major activity in His Kingdom.
7. His mother had told him to do so.
8. It summarizes everything else in the Sermon on the Mount.
9. Other.

(over)

4. What does it take to live this care-free life Jesus described?

1. It’s a lot easier if you’re rich and have what you need.
2. It’s a lot easier if you’re poor and know how to live with little.
3. Faith in God.
4. A background as a hippie would help.
5. Release the pull of Western materialism in your life.
6. Give away enough so you must trust in God to provide the basics.
7. Periodically hand over to God any burdens I have.
8. Other.

5. When have you experienced verse 33: “Seek ye first . . .”?

1. This is my daily prayer.
2. Once, right after I had made a big commitment to Christ.
3. When I seemed to have lost everything, and I turned to God.
4. I have done the first part, but haven’t experienced the second part.
5. I lack a grasp of what it means to “seek the kingdom of God. . .”
6. When I feel a palpable sense of contentment.
7. When I got a big payout, and “all these things” were added to me.
8. Other.

6. What advice do you have for someone who worries a lot?

1. Don’t.
2. Stop.
3. Pray for them.
4. Pray with them.
5. Have them read Matthew 6 each day.
6. Help them notice the many things in nature that God easily manages.
7. Worry works: most things you worry about won’t happen.
8. Other.

7. Which phrase in The Lord’s Prayer (vs. 9-13) is your favorite? Why?

8. Does your heart follow your treasure (vs. 21), or does your treasure follow your heart? Give an example.