



## WOMEN IN THE ACADEMY AND PROFESSIONS

### Matthew 6:19 – 25

#### Re-written for Grad Students

Do not store up for yourselves treasures in the lab or on your computer, where nasty viruses or awkward well-intentioned undergrad lab assistants destroy, and where jealous classmates break in and steal or thugs on the street grab from you. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where nasty viruses or awkward well-intentioned undergrad lab assistants can't destroy, and where jealous classmates can't break in and steal and where thugs on the street are unable to grab from you. For wherever the thing(s) of most value to you are – that's where you will find your heart.

The way you look at things is important. These are issues of value and identity. If you see and value things accurately, then your whole perspective on life will be healthy. But if you don't, then life will get out of whack rather quickly.

No one can serve two masters. No one can keep up a divided heart. You'll eventually find that you, relatively speaking, love one and hate the other. You can't serve God and money. You can't serve God and anything else really. You can't serve God and fame or God and power or God and prestige or God and ego or God and (fill in the blank).

Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life in grad school: which lab you'll be in, who your advisor will be, what your research topic will be – or about your reputation: will you get published, will you pass quals, will you pass anything. Is not life ultimately more important than these details? Can any one of you add an hour to your already long day by worrying? And doesn't God take care of the creation around us – creatures that don't seem nearly as important as we are and yet God sees that the animals are cared for and that his creation displays his glory. Your faith seems so small when you start to think of all this, doesn't it?

So don't waste time obsessing about (chasing after) all these things. (After all, that's what consumes people who don't know God.) They are important, yes, and God knows that. He is not only the God who made you and gave you the smarts and the abilities that you have...He is also your Father. He knows you. He knows what you need and He is committed to caring for you. He also called you into this academic pursuit – won't He see you through it?

The key is to seek Him & to seek His business – growing in love for Him, His people, and His mission. As you do that, you'll notice all the other stuff falls into place – maybe not at the time or in the way we imagine or want, but in the way that is best. So don't worry about tomorrow...let it worry about itself. Isn't there enough to attend to today?