



## Romans 1:20-23 (NIV)

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — God's eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified God nor gave thanks, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.



## Matthew 6:25-34

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will God not much more clothe you —you of little faith?

Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.



## Discussion Questions

- What does creation tell us about God's invisible qualities?
- What do we risk if we give up worrying about tomorrow's troubles?



## Discussion Questions

- How does the Diane Shenandoah clip relate to the Matthew text?
- How does the Sophie Pierre clip inform the Romans text?



## Decolonization is:

- Relinquishing control of a subjugated people. It means to identify, challenge, and restructure or replace assumptions, ideas, values, systems and practices that reflect a colonizer's dominating influence.
- Using Indigenous knowledge, understandings of life, and values systems to dismantle harmful, colonial power structures and establish noncolonial life - giving systems.



# Decolonization Framework Questions (1-6)

1. In this passage, who is in control of land, labor and capital?
2. In what ways are women, foreigners, sick/vulnerable portrayed in this text?
3. What is the message conveyed for the most vulnerable in this text?
4. Does this text lift up the narrative of the powerful or the weak?
5. How might we read this text from the margins? What would the most vulnerable feel or respond to what is going on in the story?
6. What might we assume (from our own racial/cultural/economic backgrounds) that goes unsaid in this text? Many of us have learned a routine interpretation from childhood, Sunday school, theological preparation, etc. What might be an alternative interpretation?



## Decolonization Framework Questions (7-11)

7. Are there characters who are other than human in the passage - land/water/animals? What might they tell us if they could speak? What might be the perspective of the land?
8. What might justice look like for the person/character/group with the least power in this story?
9. Is there good news for those who do not have enough in the text? And/or is there an invitation of sacrifice/relinquishment to those who control the resources?
10. If the text is not good news for the most vulnerable, what might be your challenge to the text?
11. What shifts in our perspective or imagination if we imagine the main characters in the text as Black and/or Indigenous people?



## Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”



## Consider these questions

**Question #3:** What is the message conveyed for the most vulnerable in this text? (Not for upper middle class white Americans – what is the message for the most vulnerable?)

**Question #6:** What might we assume (from our own racial/cultural/economic backgrounds) that goes unsaid in this text? Many of us have learned a routine interpretation from childhood, Sunday School, theological preparation, etc. What might be an alternative interpretation?