

# Jesus Said...

## “Consider the Lilies.”

We all know that God takes care of us. He makes the light come from the sun. He makes the rain and the snow. The air we breathe comes from His hand. He makes life itself. In the Bible, the Book of Romans, the eleventh chapter, verse 36, we read: “For of him, and through him, and to him are all things.” In Colossians 1:17 it says: “He is before all things, and by him all things consist.” Philippians 4:19 states: “But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Jesus said in Luke 12:27, “Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet, I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” Solomon was a king in the time of the Old Testament. He is known as the wisest and richest of all kings. Certainly he could have had the finest clothing. But Jesus said that Solomon, in all his glory, was not dressed as well as a lily.

The reading in Luke 12 continues that if God provides clothing for the flowers that are here to-

day and gone tomorrow, He will surely provide clothing for us. Then Jesus adds that we are not to worry about food; we are not to worry at all because God will provide for us.

Our heavenly Father knows all our needs. But these great promises have a condition. We must make the kingdom of God our chief concern. God wants to give us the things we need. He wants to show Himself strong to us. Verse 31 of Luke 12 says, "Rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you."

How do we "seek the kingdom of God" so we can receive all of the things that are promised? We must live according to God's will for our lives. In doing this we follow Jesus and do what He says. Jesus said in Matthew 18:3, "Except you be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." We must be born again and live a fruitful Christian life. We must be free from sin, and only then can we place ourselves into God's care.

But there are so many things to draw us from looking to God for our needs. I Timothy 6:17 tells us not to trust in money that is soon gone, but to trust in God. Someone has said, "You may trust God too little, but you can never trust Him too much." We are to put all of our trust in God and not in ourselves. As men who were created, we can certainly trust our Creator. As we look to God for our needs, we must remember this: God does not give miracles to men who do not believe in them.

Many of us have good jobs, nice homes, and extra money to buy many of our wants. With so many nice things around us, we can take our eyes off of God. We may even come to the place where we don't even think we need God.

Said the robin to the sparrow:  
"I should really like to know  
Why these anxious human beings  
Rush about and worry so."

Said the sparrow to the robin:  
"Friend, I think that it must be  
That they have no heavenly Father  
Such as cares for you and me."

—Elizabeth Cheney

In Matthew 6:19-21 (Jesus is speaking here in His Sermon on the Mount) He said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . . for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

God does not push Himself on us. He is standing ready to help us if we ask Him. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Jesus says again on the mount, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matt. 7:7). "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matt. 7:11). To be able to ask for things from God, we must have our interests and life toward God.

God knows what we need. He is very close to us as Christians. Acts 17:28 says, "For in him we live, and move, and have our being." God loves us and wants us to have good things. "The Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).

He wants us to ask Him for the things we want. But we must put our trust in God by placing ourselves in His care. Jesus said, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it" (John 14:13-14). Every time we truly ask something from God, He reveals more of Himself to us. We must always pray according to His will.

Steinmetz was a great scientist who never received a fixed salary from his employers. At

intervals they would give him a book of signed blank checks. Whenever he had a need, whether it was great or small, he needed only to fill in the amount on a check, sign his name, and present it to the bank. The resources of God are available to His children. God's promises are sure.

God has all power. As Christians, we are His sons and daughters, and He is our heavenly Father. To the Christian, this relationship is more genuine than ours to our earthly fathers. God wants us to come to Him as we do to our earthly fathers. He wants us to know His power—power that is available to us. Jesus said to a group of people that they were wrong in not knowing God's power.

The Apostle Paul, in Romans 4:20, 21, says that in the Old Testament Abraham did not stagger at God's promise to him, but was strong in faith and gave glory to God. Abraham was completely convinced that what God had promised to him, He was able to do. We can depend upon God to do for us what He has promised to us in His Word, the Bible. But, we must stay in right standing with God in order for Him to be able to work for us.

We read in Hebrews 4:16 that we are to come to God's throne (in prayer) with confidence and to receive His mercy and grace to help us in our need. Again in Hebrews, the writer asks us to draw near with a true heart, trusting Him to receive us because we have allowed Jesus' blood to cleanse us from our sin.

In asking God for our needs, we show to Him and to ourselves that we are not strong. Jesus said to the Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 12, "My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Paul answered that he could delight in how weak he was because it would be a show of Jesus' power instead of showing off his own power and abilities.

The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthen-

eth me.” We must not worry about our wants and needs. God wants to help us and do good things for us. But we must sense our weakness.

Ezra was a prophet in the Old Testament; he was a leader of God’s people. How powerful his words are in Ezra 7:28: “And I was strengthened as the hand of the Lord my God was upon me.” As Christians, we have God’s hand on us. Isaiah 40:31 says, “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.” We can have real peace and calmness in our minds as we think of God’s power helping and taking care of us.

We must be like the lilies; they do not worry. They do not exhaust themselves taking care of themselves. God has given us minds to honor and bring Him glory by coming to Him with our needs. In the Book of Hebrews we read, “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help us in time of need” (Heb. 4:16). Psalm 34:16, 17 says, “The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of their troubles.”

God does not hear the prayer of request from a sinner. All the promises of God for helping mankind are for the Christian. Mankind must be in right standing with God. There is only one prayer the sinner can pray that God will hear. That prayer is the prayer of accepting Jesus as leader of their life and asking God to forgive their sins and take them away with the blood of Jesus. If you are a sinner and want to be a Christian and qualify for the promise and blessing of God, bow down and pray this prayer:

*“Father in heaven, I know that I am a sinner and that I am not living as you want me to. I want now to confess and forsake my sins. I ask you to forgive my wrong living and have Jesus come into my heart. I am sorry for my sins and want to have them forgiven and taken away with the blood of Jesus. Please prepare my heart so*

*that my life will bring honor and glory to you. Help me to be faithful to you and to grow more like Jesus. I want to look to you for my needs in the future. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."*

Here is a promise from God to you:

"The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him" (II Chronicles 16:9).

—Raymond P. Brunk

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If you have any questions, or if you need further help, feel free to contact the person whose name appears below.

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