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1 - DAY THREE

Homework

God's Provision



PRAYER

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading passages of Scripture. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's word.



SCRIPTURE READING

Read Matthew 6:25-34.

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look 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? ²⁷And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (ESV).

**OBSERVATION**

What is this passage saying about...

Worrying?

Our Value?

Provision?



INTERPRETATION

What could be some reasons why people worry?

What causes you to worry?

How have you experienced God's provision in your life?



APPLICATION

How can you apply the principles of this passage to your finances & possessions?



HOWARD'S HIGHLIGHTS

Provision

The Lord promises to provide for our needs. *“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things [food and clothing] will be given to you” (Matthew 6:33, NIV).*

The same Lord who fed manna to the children of Israel during their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, and who satisfied the hunger of 5,000 with only five loaves and two fish, has promised to meet all of our needs. This is the same Lord who told Elijah, *“... I have commanded the ravens to provide food for you ... the ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening” (1 Kings 17:4-6).*

God is both predictable and unpredictable

God is totally predictable in His faithfulness to provide for our needs. What we can't predict is how He will provide. He uses different and often surprising means to care for us. He might meet our current need through an increase in income or an unexpected gift. On the other hand, He might choose to provide an opportunity to stretch limited resources through money-saving purchases. Then again, He might meet

our needs through some circumstance that we can't even imagine right now. Regardless of how He chooses to provide for our needs, He is completely reliable.

Charles Allen tells a story that illustrates this principle. As World War II was drawing to a close, the Allied armies gathered up many orphans and placed them in camps where they were well fed. But despite excellent care, the orphans were afraid and slept poorly.

Finally, a doctor came up with a solution. When the children were put to bed, he gave each of them a piece of bread to hold. Any hungry children could get more to eat, but when they were finished, they would still have this piece of bread just to hold – not to eat. This practice produced wonderful results. The children went to bed knowing that they would have food to eat the next day, and that simple guarantee gave them restful sleep.

Similarly, the Lord has given us His guarantee – our “piece of bread.” As we embrace His promises of provision, we can relax and be content. *“My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19, NIV).*



PRAYERS FOR TODAY

This prayer section is for personal use and isn't meant to be part of the group discussion.

For you...

For your family and friends...

For those in your group...



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