

Added: Tapping Into The Provision of God
Pastor John Carmichael

Matthew 6:24-33

- Many are struggling financially. Fear of the not having enough is high. There is a lot of insecurity. Inflation is high.
- Yet, as Christians who are in cooperation with God, we live with another financial system. It operates in any environment. Isaac sowed in land of famine and reaped 100-fold (Gen. 26:12). Jacob worked for Laban and prospered (Gen. 31:11-13). Paul was persecuted and imprisoned yet he was well provided for and had need of nothing (Phil. 4:18).
- I have read several PhD dissertations about how the prosperity message is effective in elevating people financially even in 3rd World Countries. It works.

How do we tap into the provision of God?

Here are four principles from this passage that help us to tap into the provision of God.

I. Serve God not money.

- a. V. 24
- b. Luke 16:9-13
 - i. [Luk 16:9 NASB95]
 - ii. Mammon (wealth) may be neutral. Jesus called it unrighteous. Not gotten unrighteously, but unrighteous in general.
 - iii. Robert Morris, "Jesus is saying, 'Take this unrighteous mammon and redeem it by giving the first to the house of God. Use the money that Satan uses for evil – use it for good and build the Kingdom of God. As a result, people will get saved and become your friends and brothers and sisters in Christ. And when you die, they will welcome you into your eternal home.'"
- c. Annotated Bible: Our Lord cautions us against two opposite mistakes: (1) idolizing money, as if it were a good in itself; (2) supposing it to be so profane and unclean that it cannot be employed in the service of God.
- d. A relationship God must supersede money. Put God first! How you acquire, give, use, save money is test on where your heart is concerning money. (Matthew 6:19-21)

II. Refuse to worry.

- a. V. 25
- b. Fear – hinders what you see, hear, and do.
- c. Cast the care - [1Pe 5:7 NASB95]
 - i. Not being irresponsible, lazy, lax, or passive.
 - ii. Give the care to God. Deal with issues, but don't dwell on them.
- d. Worry does not help. V. 25, 27 (even with your life span... omicron covid-19 variant.)
- e. Become self-aware. Worry should not be accepted as a way of life.
- f. Be at peace (steady stable state.)

III. Understand God's desire and ability to provide for you and to prosper you.

- a. V. 26, 28-30
 - i. God desires to bless you because you are valuable to Him.
 1. V. 26
 2. [Mat 7:11 NASB95]
 - ii. God can provide you with quantity you need.
 1. V. 26
 2. "Many birds eat twice their body weight in food each day."
(http://www.wildforlife.org/interesting_facts.aspx)

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3. NRSV note - Matthew 6:11 "Give us this day our bread for tomorrow."
Believing for excess bread today. Not the dessert manna life.
- iii. God can prosper you with quality you want.
 1. V. 28-30
 2. Solomon was one of the richest kings of Israel.
- b. Sufficiency and abundance is God's will for the giver. [2Co 9:8 NASB95]
- c. God is ready to bless you.
 - i. Your joy will be full. [Jhn 16:24 NASB95]
 - ii. What do you desire? [Jhn 15:7 NASB95]
- d. God is willing and able to provide for you and prosper you.

IV. Release your faith for His provision in your life.

- a. V. 30, 33
 - b. Seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness is an act of faith.
 - i. It involves doing what God says.
 - ii. It involves giving what God says.
 - iii. It involves believing what God says.
 - c. It will be added! In every situation. In every environment.
 - d. God knows how to get it to you.
- Starting now:
 - Pray for your needs and desire.
 - Give – tithe and offerings.
 - Resist worry.
 - Obey God. Put God first in everything.