

Worldly Care and God's Providence

TEXT: Matthew 6:25-34; 2 Kings 4:1-7

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 43:1,2; Philippians 4:6,7,19

KEY VERSE: But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. — Matthew 6:33

As we travel through life, we are called upon to make decisions as to whether we will put our faith and trust in God, or become absorbed in the cares of this life. If we choose God, He will take care of our necessities. In 1 Peter 5:7 we learn that we can cast all our care upon God because He cares for us.

1. In your own words, tell what is meant by the verse in our text which says, "Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?"

2. Matthew 6:26 indicates that God provides for the fowls of the air, even though they do not sow or reap. What question is asked in that same verse? Consider Isaiah 43:7 and John 3:16 as you answer that question.

3. Jesus tells us, in verse 28, to "consider the lilies of the field . . ." Why do you think He wanted us to focus on these seemingly simple things? What is important about the words, "they toil not, neither do they spin"?

4. Do you think the woman in our text (2 Kings 4) did a wise thing to come to Elisha with her problem?

Why?

5. The sons were required to borrow empty vessels from their neighbors. What spiritual attributes did they exhibit when they did this and how does this parallel our spiritual lives today?

6. What did God do to provide for the temporal needs of this family? Relate an instance from your own experience or knowledge where God provided for a need in a miraculous way.

7. Verse 31 of our text in Matthew tells us to “take no thought” of what we will eat, drink, or wear. What does that mean? What assurance can we find in verses 32 and 33?

8. As we consider Matthew 6:34, we can be assured that God does not condone a lazy, thoughtless, irresponsible attitude toward life. Read Proverbs 6:6-11, Ephesians 4:28, and 2 Thessalonians 3:10. What do these verses tell us about not neglecting hard work and earning a living?