

## **"Consider the Lilies of the Field"**

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*by Bill Crews*

The words that serve as the heading of this lesson are found in Matthew 6:28, which is part of a lengthy passage -- Matthew 6:19-34. That passage has to do with these themes: (1) We are to put more emphasis upon laying up treasures in heaven than we are to put upon laying up treasures on the earth. (2) We are to focus upon serving one spiritual Master. We cannot serve God and mammon (material things). (3) We are not to worry about what we will eat, what we will drink, or what we will wear (all necessities of life). (4) If we will seek first God's kingdom and righteousness, these necessities will be added unto us. Jesus gives two beautiful instances of God caring for things less significant than man (verses 26-30). The expression, "Consider the lilies of the field" should remind us of His care for His children. He who clothes the lilies in such beauty and splendor will certainly provide needed clothing for those who serve Him. All men are objects of God's grace and recipients of God's blessings in the physical realm (Acts 17:24-25, 28; Matt. 5:45). But His grace and blessings in the spiritual realm are available only to those who are in Christ (Eph. 1:3; 1 Jn. 1:7). Let us talk about God's care and provisions for His children.

God is capable and qualified to care for us, to provide for us. God is able: (1) to perform what He promises (Rom. 4:21), (2) to save to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25), (3) to succor (help, aid, relieve) us when we are tempted (Heb. 2:18), (4) to make all grace to abound unto us (2 Cor. 9:4), (5) to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think (Eph. 3:20-21), (6) to keep or guard that which we commit unto Him (2 Tim. 1: 12), (7) to guard us from stumbling and to set us before the presence of His glory without blemish (Jude 24- 25). Remember that God's power, wisdom and presence are all infinite. "I know that thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of thine can be restrained" (Job 42:2). On the omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence of God read the beautiful words of Jeremiah 32:17; Hebrews 1:2-3; Romans 11:33-36 and Psalm 139:7-12.

Consider the Biblical examples of God's care and provisions for His people. Every need of Adam and Eve was provided by God in the beautiful garden of Eden (Gen. 2:8-10, 15-17, 18-24). God provided for and took care of Noah and his family in a world of sinful people, through the long year of the flood, and even afterward (Gen. 6, 7, 8). God provided for and took care of Abraham and his family, even in a foreign land, surrounded by many hostile and evil people (Gen. 12-25; note Heb. 11:10, 16). God provided for and took care of the Israelites, bringing them out of slavery in Egypt, preserving them for forty years in a harsh wilderness, bringing them safely into a land of beauty and plenty (Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua). God provided for and took care of David as a young shepherd, as a fugitive fleeing from Saul, and as the second king of Israel (1 Sam. 16 2 Sam.). Read the Psalm that David wrote about God's care and God's provisions (Ps. 23; read also Ps. 37:25).

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