

The Lord Will Provide

Matthew 6:25-33

Introduction: From the beginning of creation until now, God has provided for mankind. He has created a world in which we all live and enjoy its many blessings. The income we receive is one such blessing that God gives to us. What we want to learn is just how many blessings will the Lord provide.

I. God has a history of providing.

A. Adam and Eve: They were provided a home called Eden and food to eat (Gen. 2:8-9). Even when they sinned, God provided appropriate clothing (Gen. 3:21).

B. Abraham and Isaac: The phrase “The Lord will provide” could be traced back to the occasion when Abraham’s faith was confirmed before God. When Abraham was asked by Isaac where the sacrificial lamb was located, notice Abraham’s response (Gen. 22:7-8).

C. The Israelites in the wonderings: When food and water were in short supply, God provided for the needs of the Israelites even when they tempted God and accused God of abandoning them (Ex. 16:2-3, 7-8; 17:2-3, 7). Ironically, the very One who provides them food was the One they accused of causing their hunger.

D. How many other countless times has God come to the aid of people?

II. The Lord will provide for our necessities (Matt. 6:31-33).

A. That includes food, shelter and clothing.

B. That promise is contingent upon our putting Christ and his church first.

III. God’s provisions are not guaranteed.

A. If I don’t work for a living (1 Tim. 5:8).

1. If I don’t provide, it means I have no faith.

2. If I don’t work then I don’t eat (2 Thess. 3:10).

B. If I don’t use the income He provides (Matt. 25:24-30).

C. If I spend money without regard to my income or expenses.

1. Planning expenses is a biblical principle (Luke 14:28-32).

2. We lack faith if we don’t spend according to our income

(Luke 16:10-12).

a. The person who is faithful in small things (like using money) can be trusted in the larger issues.

b. If we are not trustworthy with God’s money, what makes us think God will trust us concerning important spiritual matters?

3. Notice the parable of the unjust steward (Luke 16:1-2). He was unjust because he wasted his goods!
- a. We can not spend without regard to our expenses.
 - b. Neither can we spend the Lord's money without regard to expenses. Our faith requires us to be good stewards with the Lord's money. We should never waste the Lord's money and expect that the Lord will provide more.

IV. The Lord *does* provide.

A. The coined phrase, "The Lord will provide," is not found in the scriptures. However, it accurately relates the care God gives all of us.

B. It is also true that the Lord *does* provide (Heb. 13:5).

1. "Be content with such things as you have" because He will never forsake us.

2. It did not say be content with the things you have yet to acquire.

C. The Lord wants us to be content with the necessities of life (1 Tim. 6:8).

1. A desire for anything more than food and clothing is a temptation to be rich (1 Tim. 6:9-10).

2. Should we spend money the Lord provided and then claim the Lord will provide for other things?

D. It irritates me when people say, "The Lord will provide," when they just spent what was provided on unnecessary things.

V. Brethren should have faith that the Lord will provide.

A. However, they shouldn't expect more than what He provides.

B. Many churches have spent themselves into financial difficulties because they thought God would subsidize their spending habits if they just had faith. When in reality, they lacked the faith to see what God has provided, needs to be spent responsibly.

C. If the Lord wants us to be content with the necessities of life, do you think He would want us to be content with the necessities at church?

D. The Lord has even made a qualification for eldership based upon his ability to rule his own house (1 Tim. 3:5). If a man can't control his spending at home, do you think, as an Elder, he could control the budget at church (Luke 16:10-12)?

Conclusion: The Lord will provide. In fact, the Lord does provide. We must have faith enough to be content with His provisions. The Lord never promised to provide more than the necessities of life and that is only promised to those who put the Lord first in their lives. Is the Lord first in your life? Would you like to live a life were God will never forsake you?

