

## Being Used for God's Glory

Matthew 6:26-31

“Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? <sup>28</sup> “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; <sup>29</sup> and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

**As we continue out study of God, we are going to look at our being used for God's Glory. Let me assure you today that God has a place for you in His service, but only if you are willing to be used! If God is not using you, and manifesting Himself through you, and ministering life through you to others, it is simply because you are not willing to be used, and all the praying in the world will not get you used, until you are willing to allow God to use you!**

**In my 50 plus of preaching, I have come to realize people can find excuses to justify whatever it is they want to do, or not to do. They blame their feelings, their health, their job or other people. It's amazing what we try to get away with and give God the blame or credit for it.**

**I hear a great deal of talk today about the devil and demons, but again let me tell you, I don't think Satan so much creates the problems, I think he just simply exposes the problems that are already there. I don't think Satan creates weaknesses, but he simply utilizes the weaknesses that are already there. Remember that Satan cannot make you do one thing that you do not want to do! Satan cannot create any weakness in your being, for as a child of God, you are under the sovereign watchcare of your Heavenly Father. He simply**

works on the desires of the flesh, and works on one's will power to either serve God, or to yield to temptation.

Therefore, it is not enough to be right with God. It is not enough to be right with others. If you are going to be usable to God, you must be right with yourself. It is my conviction that a great many Christians are not usable in the service of our Lord, simply because they are not rightly related with themselves. The way they think about themselves, the way they treat themselves, and the way they see at themselves, incapacitates them to be used of God.

Therefore, in this study, we are going to look at the fact that if we are going to be usable to God, then, first of all, we must be right with ourselves.

If I am to be right with myself, then first of all, I must value myself. I must consider myself of infinite value, and infinite worth to God, as seen in Matthew 6:26 and 30, "Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are?" Look also at verse 30, "And if God cares so wonderfully for grass that is here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?" Jesus is simply saying to us, "Look at the way God treats nature. Look at the way He dresses the grass of the fields. Look at the way He feeds the fowls of the air." And then He asks the question, "Aren't you much better than they?"

We must never come to the place of allowing some kind of false piety to rob us of the fact that we are of a special value to God! Therefore, I want to show you three thoughts concerning our personal value to God.

First of all, we are of special value to God because of the fact that He created us with a very special position. Have you ever really closely examined the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> chapters of Genesis? They are two

different accounts of the same creation, and each chapter places the emphasis in a different way.

**In the first chapter man is seen coming at the end of creation.** In other words, man is seen as the *height*, the *climax*, and the *apex of creation*. When God has created all else, **the apex of His artistry of was to be seen in His creation of man.**

**In the second chapter man is seen in the center of creation.** And this shows us that *man is the heart of creation*, and everything else that God has created *revolves around man*, and *finds its meaning in man*. Therefore, we are able to see our *value* before God in that we are the *height* and the *heart* of His creation.

**Secondly, we are of special value to God because He sustains us.** Jesus continues in verse 34, "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today." Job had this to say about the hand of God in Job 12:10, "For the life of every living thing is in his hand, and the breath of every human being." **Think of what the Bible is saying to us! Man's existence is sustained entirely by the sovereign hand of the Almighty God.**

Jesus is saying there is no need to spend time in *needless fretting*, for "sufficient unto the day is its own evil." Ladies and gentlemen, Jesus has assured us that the primary necessities of life will be provided if we will simply stay in God's will and put first things first.

Listen to this promise found in Psalm 37:25, "Once I was young, and now I am old.

Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned

or their children begging for bread." That is not just an Old Testament promise to the Jews, for we have this promise in Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Child of God, it is time we *stopped worrying* and *started trusting* God to keep His Word!

**Thirdly, we are of special value to God because of the price He paid for our salvation.** Romans 5:8 reminds us that "God commended his love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." If I ever needed any proof of my value to God, I simply have to go to Calvary and look and see the blood as it flows from the veins of the Son of God, to pay the price for my eternal salvation!

My friend, I might not be worthy of salvation, but in the eyes of God I was worth saving, as seen in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, *who loved me and gave himself for me.*" God loved me then, He loves me today, and He will love me tomorrow, because I am valuable to Him! Therefore, the first thing that we must see if we are going to be right with ourselves is our infinite value in the eyes of God.

**Secondly, if I am to be right with myself, I must accept myself.** Jesus said in verse 27, "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?" Have you ever really stopped and looked at this verse of Scripture to see what Jesus was really saying? Jesus is saying, "Worrying and wishing is not going to change the way you are, so therefore, accept yourself." Listen very carefully to this statement: Jesus is aware that we cannot accept others until we are willing to accept ourselves!

**I have made this statement many, many times before: All of us started out as an original, and some where along the way we became a carbon copy!** Listen to this statement and mark it down somewhere: God will never violate a person's personality! Why? Because He made us like we are and 1 Corinthians 12:18 says, "But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it." You are an original from the very hands of God, enjoy the ride!

**Last of all, if I am to be right with myself I must forget myself.** Jesus continues in verse 31, "So don't worry about these things, saying,

‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ Jesus is simply saying, "Forget yourself." You might be thinking, "You have just told us to value ourselves, and to accept ourselves, and now why are you telling us to forget ourselves?"

The truth of the matter is simply this: If you are always worrying about what people are going to say about the way you dress, or the way you comb your hair, or the way you speak, or the way you pronounce your words when you read, or how well you sound when you pray, then you are not going to be able to relax and allow God to let you be yourself.

We have this statement in Philippians 2:13, "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." And again in Philippians 4:13 we have this assurance, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me." **I am convinced that one of the reasons that we have such a tasteless, insipid, and powerless type of Christianity today, that impresses neither God nor man, is because we have never come to the place of getting ourselves out of the way, so God can work through us!** As Jesus Christ lives His life through us, He can do through us what we ourselves cannot do! Therefore, if we are to glorify God, **we must reproduce the likeness of Christ in our everyday lives!**

**And we can only do that by realizing our own value in the eyes of God, by accepting ourselves in the place and plans of God, and then by forgetting ourselves and allowing Christ to live through us!** In other words, we must be able to say with as Paul in Philippians 1:21, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

If you are not saved, why not today?