

Consider  
the  
Lilies

"This book is exceptional  
in every way."  
—JOHN MACARTHUR



Finding  
Perfect Peace  
in the  
Character  
of God

Jonny  
Ardavanis

# Consider the Lilies

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## Chapter 13: *Mission, Family, Future*

## Matthew 6:25-33

*<sup>25</sup> "For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? <sup>27</sup> And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? <sup>28</sup> And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! <sup>31</sup> Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

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## Romans 8:32

*He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?*

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*“Jesus told His followers that the antidote to anxiety is not only truth we contemplate with our minds but a life of service that involves our hands and feet... Right thinking is valuable only if it leads to right action. Therefore, God not only casts out our fear, but calls us into His kingdom’ service.” (pg. 196)*

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## Matthew 6:19-24

*19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... <sup>20</sup> but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... <sup>21</sup> for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... <sup>24</sup> No one can serve two masters."*

## Matthew 6:25-33

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*“As we engage in service to God, His people, and His kingdom, God is going to do three things in our hearts: First, He is going to lift our gaze from the chaos and unrighteousness of this world and onto His righteous plans and purposes. Second, in serving God, we are reminded that we are not an only child in His family but ‘fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of His household’ (Ephesians 2:19). Every Christian does have a personal relationship with Jesus, but not a private one. No one is a lone ranger in our Father’s family. And third, as we consider our Father’s kingdom, we are reminded that ‘the world is passing away’ (1 John 2:17), but our Father’s kingdom is eternal (2 Peter 1:11). This world is not our home – heaven is – and one day we will meet our Savior face-to-face and be free, once and for all, from the worries and the anxieties of this world.” (pg. 196)*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

1. The believer's Mission = our Father's Kingdom.

1 Kings 19:4

*"It is enough; now, O LORD, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers."*

*"We have already considered God's kindness in coming to Elijah and nourishing his soul and body, but we have not yet examined what God said next: 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus' (1 Kings 19:15). It's easy to gloss over verses such as these, but this is significant. The One who had come to Elijah to refresh and replenish him physically and spiritually was now going to recommission him for His kingdom work. God reclaimed Elijah from his wanderings, soothed and strengthened him, set him back on his feet, and said in a graceful yet direct tone: 'Get back to work'." (pgs. 197)*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

1. The believer's Mission = our Father's Kingdom.

1 Kings 19:4

*"It is enough; now, O LORD, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers."*

1 Kings 19:17-18

*<sup>17</sup> "It shall come about, the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall put to death. <sup>18</sup> Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him."*

*"In God's grace, God gives us work to do... God is gracious in both His comfort and in His commissions. Repeatedly throughout Scripture, God's medicine to the despairing and anxious is an assignment that He gave to them for the advancement of His kingdom and the benefit of others." (pg. 198)*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

1. The believer's Mission = our Father's Kingdom.

Matthew 26:35

*"Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You."*

Luke 22:61-62

*<sup>61</sup> The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times." <sup>62</sup> And he went out and wept bitterly.*

*"After Peter's triple denial of Jesus, God was gracious, not only in His forgiveness, but in His renewed commission to Peter. Peter was all but ready to leave the ministry; he said, 'I'm going fishing' (John 21:3). But Jesus came to Peter, recommissioned him, and said, 'Feed My sheep.' (v. 16)." (pg. 198)*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

### 1. The believer's Mission = our Father's Kingdom.

*“Heavenly pursuits and earthly anxieties are not mutually exclusive, but Jesus does say that the former will drive out the later. God’s faithful servants war against worry and walk through sloughs of despondency, but the antidote to our anxiety and the remedy for our melancholy is never to retire from the ministry but to press on in doing what God has put before us... The most joyful people on earth are those who do not live for themselves.” (pgs. 198-199)*

# MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

1. The believer's Mission = our Father's Kingdom.



Joni Eareckson Tada



Elisabeth Elliot

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

### 1. The believer's Mission = our Father's Kingdom.

*“Are you anxious? Are you despairing? Is it possible that you are waiting for someone else to serve you instead of thinking creatively and strategically about whom you can serve? Are you waiting for someone to meet your needs instead of considering how you can meet the needs of others?... God rescues us from the pit of self-pity, as He did for Elijah and Peter, as we rest in His character, and move forward in trust, and do the next thing.” (pgs. 199-200)*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

### 2. The believer's Family = our Father's Household (the Church).

*"You cannot live the Christian life alone... Believers do experience a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, but our relationship with God is not merely personal; it is also corporate. Christians are sheep with one common Shepherd, children with one common Father, and citizens with one common King. This is not a book about the church, but it is a book about trusting God in an anxious world – and the truth is that faith flourishes in the context of community. Our sorrows, troubles, and trials are heaviest when we bear them alone. Ironically, in our contemporary context, 'friendships' abound on social platforms and yet very few people experience the deep, meaningful, sharpening, and uplifting relationships that the Bible describes." (pg. 201)*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

2. The believer's Family = our Father's Household (the Church).

*“As believers, not only do we belong to God, but we also belong to one another in the local church (Romans 12:5)... Along that same line, individual members of the body cannot and do not grow when they are disconnected from other members of the body... Fellow believers are not just friends, they are partners in the Christian life.” (pg. 202)*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

2. The believer's Family = our Father's Household (the Church).

### All believers are charged to:

- Devote themselves to one another
- Confess their sins to one another
- Forgive one another
- Serve one another
- Pray for one another
- Stimulate one another to love and good deeds
- Bear one another's burdens
- Love one another
- Build up one another
- Teach one another

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

2. The believer's Family = our Father's Household (the Church).

*“Fixing our gaze and feeding our faith is a community project. When we are disconnected from other Christians in the church, we not only rob others, but we also rob ourselves... Jesus' final prayer in the garden stressed His desire for His followers to be one in essence, one in shared life, one in will, and one in mutual love for one another.” (pg. 204)*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

### 3. The believer's Future = our Father's Home (heaven).

*“In the moments leading up to His betrayal, Jesus would speak immensely comforting and precious words to His distraught disciples. He did not give them a pie-in-the-sky futuristic outlook – in fact, He promised them, ‘In this world you will have trouble’ (John 16:33). Jesus, knowing that the minds and hearts of His disciples were flooded with uncertainties regarding the present and anxieties regarding the future, grounded their thinking in something, some place, that is sure – heaven.*

*Immediately after telling His disciples ‘Do not let your heart be troubled...’ (John 14:1), Jesus said to them, ‘In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also’ (vv. 2-3).” (pgs. 205-206)*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

3. The believer's Future = our Father's Home (heaven).

*"Jesus tells the anxious to think! And one of the greatest truths worried and despairing believers can meditate on is our future home with Christ." (pg. 207)*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

### 3. The believer's Future = our Father's Home (heaven).

#### Revelation 21:3-4

*<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, <sup>4</sup> and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."*

#### Colossians 3:1-4

*<sup>1</sup> Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

### 3. The believer's Future = our Father's Home (heaven).

*“The Bible generally describes heaven by detailing what it's not like in order to demonstrate what it will be like. For example, against the backdrop of our perishing, defiled, and fleeting world, the Bible says that our Father's house is a place that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading (1 Peter 1:4)... Because our Father's house is holy, His house will not be tainted by sin or the effects of sin... But heaven is not only the absence of corruption and chaos; it is the presence of all that a believer should long for.” (pg. 208)*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

3. The believer's Future = our Father's Home (heaven).

### What awaits us in Glory?

- Our Father is there.
  - Our Savior, Jesus Christ, is there.
  - Our inheritance is there.
- We are fellow heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17)*
- 

1 Peter 1:3-4

*<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.*

*“Everything that Christ will receive by divine right as the natural Son of God, we will receive by divine grace as adoptive children of God.” (MacArthur, Bible Doctrine, pg. 631)*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

3. The believer's Future = our Father's Home (heaven).

### What awaits us in Glory?

- Our Father is there.
- Our Savior, Jesus Christ, is there.
- Our inheritance is there.
- Our reward is there.

*What's the difference?*



1 Corinthians 3:12-15

*<sup>12</sup> Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. <sup>14</sup> If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

3. The believer's Future = our Father's Home (heaven).

### What awaits us in Glory?

- Our Father is there.
- Our Savior, Jesus Christ, is there.
- Our inheritance is there.
- Our reward is there.
- Our greatest joy is there.

Psalm 16:11

*You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*

Jude 1:24

*Now to Him who is able to... make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy...*

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3. The believer's Future = our Father's Home (heaven).

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- Our inheritance is there.
- Our reward is there.
- Our greatest joy is there.

*“Whatever your view of God may be, it is an incomplete one if it does not include the reality that He is a God of great joy – and in His presence you will experience ‘fullness of joy;... pleasures forever.’ I can’t wait for the day I will hear Jesus say, ‘Enter into the joy of your master’ (Matthew 25:23).” (pg. 201)*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

3. The believer's Future = our Father's Home (heaven).

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- Our Father is there.
- Our Savior, Jesus Christ, is there.
- Our inheritance is there.
- Our reward is there.
- Our greatest joy is there.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

*<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart... <sup>17</sup> For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FUTURE:

1. Focus on our **MISSION**: building our Father's Kingdom.
2. Engagement with our **FAMILY**: God's household, the church.
3. Confident hope in our **FUTURE**: our Father's eternal home, heaven.

**Next Time:** Chapter 14

*Rejoicing on Repeat*