

# The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES  
with Pastor Greg Formey



## Providence: Learning Trust And Gratitude

### Matthew 6:25-31

Sunday, November 10, 2019

God moves as He does in your life to teach you trust and thankfulness.

Can you trust Him? Does He lie to you? Has He ever failed to do something that He has said He would do? If you can trust God, obey Him. It doesn't matter how odd, how difficult, how unpleasant, how costly the thing is – if you are certain God is leading you in some direction, then follow Him.

#### LEARNING TRUST

Why do we fret over things that we cannot control? We do it because of a lack of trust. Trust is the very heartbeat of faith, and if we do not exercise it, we cannot please God. It is a matter of relying on Him to look out for our best interests in every detail of our lives.

Jesus taught the disciples a lesson in trust using birds and flowers.

#### Matthew 6:25-31

**<sup>25</sup>“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”**

You have no evidence that a bird was ever anxious about food or shelter.

**<sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why are you anxious about clothing?**

The lilies of the field have no other option than to depend on God for everything.

**Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive 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 be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’**

It is human beings (who have several options) who distrust Him.

God provides for birds who do not have guaranteed sources of supply and for wild plants in fields that cannot even search for food. And these living things have survived and thrived for thousands of years.

How can you not trust the Lord with today and tomorrow, if He has been providing for you and protecting you through all your past ups and downs?

So why are you worried?

Listen to this riveting story from a student who was learning to fly a plane:

*Some years ago when I was learning to fly, my instructor told me to put the plane into a steep and extended dive. I was totally unprepared for what was about to happen. After a brief time the engine stalled, and the plane began to plunge out-of-control. It soon became evident that the instructor was not going to help me at all. After a few seconds, which seemed like eternity, my mind began to function again. I quickly corrected the situation. Immediately I turned to the instructor and began to vent my fearful frustrations on him. He very calmly said to me, "There is no position you can get this airplane into that I cannot get you out of. If you want to learn to fly, go up there and do it again."*

*The Lord is saying that same thing to you: "Remember this. As you serve Me, there is no situation you can get yourself into that I cannot get you out of. If you trust me, you will be all right."*

He can see farther than you can and He knows what the end result will be when you do not and cannot.

## **LEARNING GRATITUDE**

Not only should you trust God, you ought to respond to Him with thankfulness, even when you are in a "deep dive." Where would you be without His hand of providence bringing you to the place where you are today?

### **Ephesians 5:20**

**giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ**

Every breath, every heartbeat, every mouthful of food, every piece of clothing, and every ray of sunshine come from the hand of God.

We ought to spend far less time wondering why God does what He does and just be thankful that He hides certain details from us. Gratitude is the proof that we are confident that He knows how to get us where we are going.

God in His goodness, in His providential care may do some things that we feel are bad: the ice storm, the thunderstorm, the lightning, but He uses those things to accomplish His will. Could God have prevented that bad thing from happening in your life? Sure He could have – but for whose benefit? For yours or for His? To accomplish what you want or to fulfill His eternal purposes? Look past the here and now, the pain and the hurt, and thank God that He knows what He is doing.

Sometimes it seems like our lives are so messed up – we need to quit trying to straighten them out ourselves and put them in the hands of our all-seeing, fore-seeing God. Trust Him and give Him thanks!