

“Following the Call” by Charles E. Moore

IV. Kingdom Priorities – Beyond Worry

Ch. 42

Last week we discussed **Matthew 6:24** – “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” What does this mean to you?

Jacques Ellul says “He (Jesus) is speaking of a power which tries to be like God, which makes itself our master and which has specific goals.” How can the love of money be a God to some people? What does this do to their relationship with the true God?

Matthew 6:25-32 – “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father know that you need them.”

What do you think Jesus is saying about food, drink, and clothes?



Madame Guyon (1648 - 1717) was a French Roman Catholic mystic, spiritual writer, and lay teacher of prayer whose writings on inward prayer, abandonment to God, and pure love became one of the central subjects of the late seventeenth-century Quietist controversy in France.

“All Christians are exhorted to this resignation (denying one’s self): for it is said to all; (Discuss each verse.)

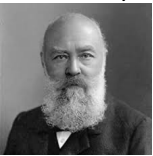
Matthew 6:34 – “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Proverbs 3:6 – “In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 16:3 – “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”

Psalms 37:5 – “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.”

Our abandonment ... is practiced by continually losing our own will in the will of **God**; ...by being resigned in all things, whether for soul or body, whether for time or eternity; ...and devoting the present moment to **God**,”. What is **Guyon** saying? Why?



Christoph Friedrich Blumhardt (1842 - 1919) was a German Lutheran pastor and religious socialist. In 1899 he announced his support for socialism and joined the Social Democratic Party of Germany; for this, he lost his position as minister. In 1899, Germany was a powerful industrial and military empire ruled by **Kaiser Wilhelm II**. This era, known as the German Empire, saw rapid economic growth, fierce competition with other global powers, and an increase in its push for overseas colonies and naval power. What may have drove **Blumhardt** to socialism?

“At present the whole world lies deep in worries and cares, including the wealthiest of nations. But within the society and organism that proceeds from **Christ**, worries can and should cease. There should be care for one another.” What is he saying here?

“There is an enormous strength when people stand together, when they unite together in a communal way.” What does this mean?



Clarence Jordan (1912 - 1969) was an American Baptist Bible translator and founder of Koinonia Farm, a small but influential religious community in southwest Georgia and the author of the Cotton Patch paraphrase of the New Testament. He was also instrumental in the founding of Habitat for Humanity.

“In the book of Acts we are told that the Holy Spirit came upon 120 people on the day of Pentecost.”

Pentecost is a major Christian festival celebrated 50 days after Easter. It marks the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus in the form of “tongues of fire”, an event recorded in the **Book of Acts**. It

is widely considered the birthday of the Christian Church.

“This powerful, indwelling **Spirit** brought them, and three thousand more shortly thereafter, into the kingdom, into the love relationship with **God** and their brothers and sisters. One result of this tremendous inward change was a radically different attitude toward possessions.” What attitude do you see around you about possessions? How does this differ from Christian belief?

“Those who were owners of lands and houses sold them and brought the proceeds of the sale and turned them over to the apostles. How did it happen that there wasn’t a needy person among these people?...Need, not greed, became the principle by which they lived. ...they took the assets which **God** had already given them and cared for those in need.... There is enough in the world today to meet all our needs. When his kingdom comes, ...both poverty and riches will go!” What is **Jordan** saying here?

The apostle who betrayed **Christ** and managed the group’s funds was **Judas Iscariot**. This is specifically recorded in the book of **John**.

The Scriptures on Judas and the Money Bag

John 12:4-6: When **Mary** anointed **Jesus** with expensive perfume, **Judas** objected that it should have been sold for the poor. Scripture notes he said this not out of care for the poor, but because “he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it”.

John 13:29: During the Last Supper, when **Jesus** told **Judas** to do quickly what he was going to do, some disciples thought **Jesus** meant for him to buy supplies for the festival or give something to the poor because he kept the money bag.

The Betrayal: His betrayal of **Jesus** for thirty pieces of silver is detailed across the Gospels, such as in **Matthew 26:14-16**.

What did **Judas** worship? How did this conflict with the teachings of **Jesus**? And how did this work out for **Judas**? What’s the lesson?



Howard Thurman (1899 - 1981) was an African American pastor, philosopher, and civil rights leader.

“We lay bare the personal concerns of our private lives; ...We ask nothing. We wait. We wait, our Father, until at last something of thy strength becomes out strength, something of thy heart becomes our heart, something of thy forgiveness becomes our forgiveness. We wait, O **God**, we wait.”

What is **Thurman** saying here about waiting on **God**? Have you ever had to wait on God while your wants were now?

Let’s rely on **God** for our needs and wants and let **Him** use us to help others. That’s being a child of **God**.