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The January 2009 Wake Up Report

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Title: Crisis, Courage and Compassion

Everyone knows that we are facing a very uncertain future. Our world is experiencing rapid changes. Like it or not, believe it or not, life on Earth will become more and more difficult as the return of Jesus draws near. The tribulation factor is growing. We are being conditioned each day by increasing volatility. More and more we live with anticipation that something bigger than we have seen before is coming. And sure enough, our anticipation almost becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

But, don't be alarmed. Jesus predicted there would be wars, earthquakes, famines and distress among the nations at the end of the age. I want to remind you that in the middle of global chaos, there is a haven of refuge. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Jesus is the Rock of Ages.

Everything that Jesus has promised, He will do -- whether we like it, understand it, reject it or believe it. The good news is that Jesus is a loving God and we can trust Him to help us in our time of need. " . . . **And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**" (Matthew 28:20)

As human beings, we can help and encourage each other, BUT there's a limit to what we can do and offer. Only Jesus can send true peace into our hearts. Right before His death, Jesus told His disciples:

John 16:32 "But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me [you may have peace](#). In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

If our peace and joy is rooted in this world, there will be less and less to rejoice over because this world is getting worse. Uncertainty is growing and anxieties are increasing. As things around us crumble, the first question that comes to mind is one of survival. "Will I survive?"

But, the first question that should concern a born-again Christian is "Who can I help?" As the return of Jesus draws near, more and more people will need our help! So, the title for today's study is Crisis, Courage and Compassion.

An overwhelming **crisis** is coming. (I'm speaking about the seven trumpets.) Our **courage** and faith in the Lord will be tested and, this will present a great opportunity for **compassion**.

Storm clouds are gathering on the horizon. Currently, the whole world is dealing with an economic crisis that seems to defy remedy. Let me be clear: I don't have a clever scheme to solve our financial problems, I don't have any financial recommendations other than get out of debt as quickly as possible. However, the most important preparation we need to make for the end of the world is not a financial one, it is a spiritual one.

We need to learn lessons of faith now so that we might stand when greater faith is required. If we know Jesus, we have nothing to fear. Jesus will give us the strength to overcome the world. He will calm our anxieties and fears so that we can think clearly and have peace within -- even in the middle of a raging storm.

John 15:7 "If you **remain in me** and **my words remain in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

John 15:8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

John 15:9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now **remain in** my love.

John 15:10 **If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.**

John 15:11 I have told you this so that **my joy may be in you** and that **your joy** may be **complete**."

Jesus will give us joy and peace **if we remain** in Him. What does remaining in Jesus mean? First, remaining in Jesus means feeding on His words. "If you **remain in me** and **my words remain in you**. . . ." My mother often says, "If you're not in the Word, you're in the world."

1 John 2:15 "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 John 2:16 For everything in the world -- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does -- comes not from the Father but from the world.

1 John 2:17 **The world and its desires pass away**, but the man who does the will of God lives

forever."

Remaining in Jesus requires getting into His Word. If you are not in the habit of getting into His Word, you have to change! The words of Jesus bring courage, salvation, peace and joy -- and sweet assurance.

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

There's no room for anxiety when Jesus is in our heart because love displaces anxiety. When Jesus is in our heart our thoughts and concerns are on others – not self. This is how love displaces concerns for self.

Second, remaining in Jesus means possessing the love of Jesus. This love comes as a gift from God to every born again child and it influences everything you do. It's a love for people and for what is right and true. The ways of Jesus are different than the ways of this world.

Mat 5:46 "If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?"

Mat 5:47 "And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?"

Look around you, in this time of crisis and uncertainty, there are people who are hurting. Reach out and show them compassion. Help others and Jesus will help you!

Mat 6:3 "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

Mat 6:4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will [reward you](#)."

Last, remaining in Jesus means walking with Jesus everyday. Ask Him to give you wisdom, courage and compassion so that you can exalt His kingdom at every opportunity. If you remain in Jesus, you will be blessed and your heart will be full of peace. I have learned that the Lord can make a way through any difficulty even when we can't see the door. So, don't be afraid of your circumstances or an imploding world. Rather, put your faith in Jesus, your head in His Word and your heart in His service.

Summarizing: Abiding or remaining in Christ means:

1. Feeding on the words of Jesus.
2. Demonstrating the love of Jesus.

3. Walking with Jesus each day -- praying for wisdom and courage to exalt His kingdom with every opportunity.

Let's take a quick survey at some oncoming problems we face right now:

Unemployment is rising and this produces a host of secondary problems: Many people have lost or will lose their medical insurance because they can't afford it.

Large numbers of people are facing bankruptcy because they have been forced into foreclosure.

Marriages are breaking up because of stress.

The misery index for the whole world is climbing and it is only a matter of time until everyone feels "the pain."

I need to say something that you may disagree with, but it probably won't be the first time or the last time you will disagree with me. For a host of prophetic reasons, I believe that the return of Jesus is very near. Maybe as early as 2015. Of course, I do not know the date, I am just saying that for numerous reasons, 2015 appears interesting to me.

I believe the current financial crisis will not go away, rather, the whole world is descending into an economic collapse. Said another way, our nation's best days in terms of prosperity are behind us.

In order to keep the current crisis from destroying our own economy and the economies of the world, world leaders have had to "create" billions of dollars to manage the crisis. Most everyone knows about the \$700 billion which Congress approved in October, 2008.

Maybe you have heard that Congress is considering another \$500 billion plan to stimulate the economy.

$\$7 \text{ billion} + \$5 \text{ billion} = \$1.2 \text{ trillion}$

And this isn't enough money for the problems we face. I think the financial need for the United States exceeds \$5 trillion and when you add in the needs of the wealthiest 20 nations, the world's financial remedy exceeds \$12 trillion.

The point here is that the world doesn't have, nor can it raise enough money to fix the problem we are in. Yes, the inevitable implosion has been forestalled with band-aids, but the root of the problem is not going away. The crushing weight of this gigantic "lead balloon" will soon fall on our own heads.

I believe we will soon see that men have totally destroyed the most important infrastructure in the

world. The world's economy is beyond repair. Will the world end tomorrow? No. Will the misery index continue to rise? Yes. Will people become more desperate and extreme as circumstances become more difficult? Yes.

Is there any hope for lasting recovery? No. Is there hope for the future? Yes! Absolutely.

I want to present three concepts that reveal a larger picture -- a picture of hope. Sometimes, when we are in a crisis, we tend to obsess with the tempest in the tea cup. So, it's necessary to step away from our personal situation in order to get a larger perspective and once we behold the big picture, we can make better decisions and best of all, we can replace panic with patience, failure with faith and worry with wisdom.

Consider this:

1. Jesus establishes.
2. Jesus owns.
3. Jesus overrules.

1. Jesus establishes

Col 1:16 "For by him [Jesus] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."

Let's go behind the scenes and notice how Jesus established a world empire.

Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar:

Dan 2:37 You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven **has given you** dominion and power and might and glory;

Dan 2:38 in your hands **he has placed mankind** and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, **he has made you ruler over them all**. You are that head of gold."

How did all of this great wealth and power befall Nebuchadnezzar? Through hard work? No. Did Nebuchadnezzar work hard? Yes, I'm sure he did. But, (and here is the problem), Nebuchadnezzar thought he worked alone. I did it, "MY WAY."

But, Daniel said: ". . . The God of heaven **has given** you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands **he has placed** mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air."

Here's the point: Jesus **established** Nebuchadnezzar as the king of Babylon -- this is how he became king! Of course, historians will give us a totally different explanation, but the Bible

gives us "the truth."

Look at this prophecy, made ~200 years before Cyrus the king of Persia was born:

Isa 45:1 "This is what the Lord says to his **anointed**, to Cyrus, **whose right hand I take hold of to subdue** nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:

Isa 45:2 **I will go before you** and will level the mountains ; **I will break down gates** of bronze and cut through bars of iron.

Isa 45:3 **I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places**, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.

Isa 45:4 For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, **I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me.**" Wow!

Jesus Christ established Cyrus as king of the Medes and Persians and yet, Cyrus had no knowledge of Jesus! Jesus enabled Cyrus to become the king of a world empire. Listen carefully: Jesus **does not** put **every** elected official into office. He grants mankind the power of choice. Sometimes we make good choices, sometimes we make bad choices. However, *when Jesus wants to accomplish a specific task*, Jesus gives a person certain powers to accomplish His will. Jesus does not micromanage Earth. Rather, he has made us stewards of His creative works. Jesus is happy when people have the freedom to make and exercise their power of choice when it comes to political leadership. However, when circumstances dictate, Jesus will **overrule** a political process because Jesus **overrules**. (We will talk about this feature shortly.)

Paul wrote:

Rom 13:1 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has **established**. The authorities that exist have been **established** by God.

Rom 13:2 Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against **what God has instituted**, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Rom 13:3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

Rom 13:4 For he is **God's servant** to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. **He is God's servant, an agent of wrath** to bring punishment on the wrongdoer."

Don't misunderstand Paul. When rulers govern according to divine principles, God is pleased. When rulers abandon their God given responsibility, God abandons them and their government will fall. The point here is that Jesus **established** government. Those who administer government are ordinary people who are empowered as **trustees** of what Jesus **established**. A new president of the United States will take office on January 20. He will hold a very high and important office, but he **does not own** that office nor the government he serves. He will be a **steward of all that belongs to Jesus** and this brings us to the second concept in the big picture.

2. Jesus Christ owns everything

Jesus is the Creator of everything that exists. Jesus created everything for the joy and glory of the Father. When Adam and Eve sinned, Jesus offered to die in man's place for no other reason than His love for us. The Father was moved by Jesus' love for sinners and He reciprocated by promising Jesus everything and everyone that He redeems.

John 17:5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with **the glory I had with you before the world began**.

John 17:6 "I have revealed you to those whom **you gave me** out of the world. **They were yours; you gave them to me** and they have obeyed your word. . . .

John 17:9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those **you have given me, for they are yours**.

John 17:10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them."

Ownership is not the same as stewardship. A steward is accountable to the owner whereas the owner is not accountable to anyone. Why is this concept important? It doesn't change the parameters of the current crisis, but it can change the way we think about the crisis.

It is human nature to be possessive. It is human nature to think that "we own this or that" and people will move quickly to keep or protect what they think they own. *But, we own nothing*. We are stewards of what Jesus owns. We are managers of what Jesus owns. Many people, unaware they are stewards of things that don't belong to them, set their selfish hearts on getting or owning certain things.

When "their possessions" are threatened or destroyed, they feel indescribable loss. What did Job say after losing his children, his herds and his house?

Job 1:21 ". . . Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord **gave** and the Lord **has taken away**; may the name of the Lord be praised."

Job 1:22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing."

We came into this world owning nothing, and when we leave, we own nothing. So, wouldn't it be better to understand from childhood that we truly own nothing? We are simply stewards of the things that Jesus owns.

Jesus **gives** great wealth to some people, but He requires them to use His wealth wisely, to bless and improve the lives of others. We have already seen from Scripture that Jesus has established governments and from time to time, he appoints specific kings to accomplish His purposes.

Similarly, Jesus owns the world and He chooses people to be stewards of His wealth. If they are wise managers, everyone is blessed. If these stewards become selfish and greedy, everyone hurts. Wealth has the power to do great amount of good when it is managed appropriately. Wealth also has the power to do a great amount of evil when it mismanaged. Stewardship is a difficult concept for some people to accept. But, it is the truth.

Psa 50:9 "I have no need of [your sacrifices] a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens,

Psa 50:10 for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.

Psa 50:11 I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine.

Psa 50:12 If I were hungry I would not tell you, for **the world is mine, and all that is in it.**"

Verse 12 proves that everyone on Earth is a steward of God's wealth. Some of us have received little and some of us have received much. There is a corresponding responsibility for every steward:

". . . . From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." (Luke 12:48)

Jesus spoke these words because He owns everything that exists. We own nothing, not even the breath in our lungs!

Eccl 12:7 "And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to **God who gave it.**"

The point here is that we are stewards of whatever Jesus **gives** us to manage. If we mismanage the wealth that God has put within our control, those who depend on us will suffer. I can't tell you how sad it is to see children suffering because their parents are not good stewards -- and I am not just talking about poor people. Millions of young people have been ruined by wealthy parents who failed to teach their children about stewardship.

Nebuchadnezzar was fully warned about his predisposition to think that he owned Babylon....
God gave the king a disturbing dream... but...

Dan 4:29 Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of
Babylon,

Dan 4:30 he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty
power and for the glory of my majesty?"

Dan 4:31 The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, "This is what is
decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority **has been taken** from you.

Dan 4:32 You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat
grass like cattle. **Seven times** will pass by for you **until you acknowledge** that the Most High is
sovereign over the kingdoms of men and **gives them to anyone** he wishes."

Dan 4:33 Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven
away from people and ate grass like cattle. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until
his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird."

King Nebuchadnezzar could not be reasoned with. He had become so arrogant that no one could
talk him out of his belief that he was so good. He had built a mighty empire because he was wise
and powerful. You know, a notch above the others. King Neb thought he deserved the worship
given to the gods of the Babylonians. Talking about a "head trip"...

The king's paradigm had to be destroyed. He had to see firsthand that he wasn't the creator or the
owner of Babylon. King Neb did not establish Babylon. It took seven long years to get this
nonsense out of his head. The parallel here is that the current financial crisis parallels
Nebuchadnezzar's seven years. Men may think they created great wealth and they may think that
they own the world, but seven years of eating grass can change that attitude. The world keeps
going through financial crises because each generation has to learn the same lessons over and
over again. The carnal heart never changes.

When wealthy people mismanage their God-given wealth, those who depend on them suffer.
When poor people mismanage their God-given wealth, those who depend on them also suffer.
The current crisis reeks from top to bottom with fiscal mismanagement. Poor people bought
houses they could not afford. Investment bankers made risky loans to poor people who could not
afford houses in order to capture spectacular earnings. Insurance brokers sold insurance policies
to cover loans that foolish people made in order to get more money. Yes, for a few months, it
looked as though everybody made money! And today, the result is quite clear:

A lot of wealth has evaporated. (More than 3 trillion dollars during 2008 alone.)

Now, automakers can't make and sell cars. Thousands of people have been laid off. Suddenly, the whole business world has imploded. The jury is still out on whether the \$700 billion dollar rescue program will work. Banks are afraid to make loans for fear the loans can't be repaid. Businesses can't sell products because people can't buy. People are laid off because the demand for products has dried up. The world's economy is deeply intertwined. The rich need the poor and the poor need the rich. What happens in the USA affects business in China and vice versa. Make no mistake about it. When sound economic principles are violated, whether at the national level or in the home, pain will be the result.

When people abandon sound principles of stewardship and forget they are accountable to God for the wealth He has given them (no matter how large or small), pain is the result. After eating grass for seven years, Nebuchadnezzar finally had enough pain. He concluded that He was a steward:

Dan 4:34 At the end of that time [the seven years], I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then **I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him** who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

Dan 4:35 All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. **He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth.** No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" (An ancient way of saying, "The Most High owns the world, who can question The Owner's use of it?")

A few years later, Daniel received a call on his cell phone. It was the chief of staff in the White House. It was about midnight. A drinking party had been in progress for several days, but the party was interrupted by a hand writing on the palace wall. Since the handwriting was in Hebrew, and everyone at the party could see it, the king wanted some explanation....

Daniel spoke to king Belshazzar:

Dan 5:18 "O king, the Most High **God gave** your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendor.

Dan 5:19 Because of the high position **he gave** him, all the peoples and nations and men of every language dreaded and feared him. Those the king wanted to put to death, he put to death; those he wanted to spare, he spared; those he wanted to promote, he promoted; and those he wanted to humble, he humbled.

Dan 5:20 But when his heart **became arrogant and hardened with pride**, **he was deposed** from his royal throne and stripped of his glory.

Dan 5:21 **He was driven** away from people and given the mind of an animal; he lived with the

wild donkeys and ate grass like cattle; and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and sets over them anyone he wishes.

Dan 5:22 "But you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this.

Dan 5:23 Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways.

Dan 5:24 Therefore he sent the hand that wrote the inscription.

Dan 5:25 "This is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN

Dan 5:26 "This is what these words mean: Mene : God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end.

Dan 5:27 Tekel : You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting."

Shorthand: Belshazzar, you've been a fool, God is finished with you. You will die tonight.

Look!

Jesus established Babylon.
Babylon was mismanaged.
Jesus terminated Babylon

Jesus established Medo-Persia, Grecia and Rome. Each was mismanaged each was destroyed.

Jesus established the nation of Israel.
Israel was mismanaged.
Jesus destroyed the nation of Israel.

This stewardship thing is very important because once you understand that Jesus owns everything, you have to take "three steps back from your possessions." Like Job, you have to realize who the Owner really is.

Just before entering the Promised Land, Moses warned Israel...

Deu 8:11 Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day.

Deu 8:12 Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down,

Deu 8:13 and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied,

Deu 8:14 then your heart will become proud and **you will forget** the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Deu 8:15 He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock.

Deu 8:16 He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you.

Deu 8:17 You may say to yourself, "**My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.**"

Deu 8:18 But remember the Lord your God, **for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth**, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

Deu 8:19 If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that **you will surely be destroyed.**"

The love of money (and the things that money can buy) contributed to the destruction of Israel. The love of money (and the things that money can buy) has contributed to the destruction of this nation.

The current economic crisis is a reality check. Money is a dangerous thing because it is so easy to mismanage.

Paul wrote, Heb 13:5 Keep your lives **free from the love of money** and **be content** with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

And this brings us to the third and final concept.

3. Jesus Christ Overrules

Jesus follows a consistent policy when dealing with mankind. It is called: The Full Cup Principle. The Full Cup Principle is easy to understand:

When a majority of people in a nation reach a level of decadence and degeneracy where extended mercy does not produce a redeeming effect, Jesus takes action.

The Full Cup Principle explains the fall of world empires, nations and cities:

Babylon
Medo-Persia
Grecia
Rome

Jericho
Ninevah
Jerusalem
Sodom
Gommorrah

The point here is one that historians usually overlook. A nation falls or a nation is established according to divine power. Jesus establishes and Jesus tears down. He owns the nations of the world.

Isa 44:24 "This is what the Lord says -- your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: [I am the Lord, who has made all things](#), who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,

Isa 44:25 who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense,

Isa 44:26 who carries out the words of his servants and fulfills the predictions of his messengers, who says of Jerusalem, 'It shall be inhabited,' of the towns of Judah, 'They shall be built,' and of their ruins, 'I will restore them,'

Isa 44:27 who says to the watery deep, 'Be dry, and I will dry up your streams,'

Isa 44:28 who says of [Cyrus](#), 'He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please; [he will say](#) of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt," and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid.'"

Two hundred years before he was born, this passage predicted that Cyrus would one day rebuild the city of Jerusalem and the temple. History says that he did.

History also says that it wasn't easy. Squatters took over Judea during the 70 years that Israel was exiled in Babylon and the resistance for rebuilding the city and the temple was enormous. But, it was done because Jesus overruled the squatters.

Jesus overrules the desires and plans of men when necessary to achieve His larger purposes.

This is why I reject conspiracy theories. Don't misunderstand. I know that conspiracy goes on all

of the time. People get together and they conspire for good purposes and bad purposes and sometimes they accomplish their objectives. However, there is no conspiracy that escapes the attention of Jesus. Jesus always overrules them. He establishes. He owns and He overrules. [The Big Picture](#) is always managed by Jesus.

The outcome of world wars is managed by Jesus.
Civil wars are managed by Jesus.
Jesus overrules as He deems appropriate.

So, be of good courage. The current crisis is under His control.
Jesus overrules.

No matter what personal crisis you face, no matter how dire your circumstances, the current situation is not hopeless because Jesus overrules.

Consider the following:

Mat 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You [cannot](#) serve both God and Money.

Mat 6:25 "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 important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

Mat 6:26 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?

Mat 6:27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life ?

Mat 6:28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.

Mat 6:29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.

Mat 6:30 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, [O you of little faith?](#)

Mat 6:31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

Mat 6:32 For [the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.](#)

Mat 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things **will be given** to you as well.

Mat 6:34 Therefore **do not worry about tomorrow**, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

When Jesus said, "do not worry about tomorrow," did He mean: "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die?" No.

Jesus does not excuse anyone from the responsibilities of stewardship. Jesus does not call us to a life of self indulgence. Jesus knows there is no true joy in the pagan lifestyle. Joy and contentment comes through knowing that Jesus is in control. "Therefore **do not worry about tomorrow**, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

If you are overwhelmed with financial problems today, if you are anxious about the bills, if you are worried about the future, put your faith in Jesus. Jesus will make a way if you remain in Him.

Ask Him to renew a right spirit within you, ask Him to clear your head so you think straight, ask Him to give you grace -- the peace you need to focus on opportunities that are standing right before you. Ask Him to give you the strength to get off your seat and on your feet -- asking, seeking and knocking.

Mat 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Ask Jesus to show you the door He has opened and GO forward. Remember:

Jesus establishes.

Jesus owns.

Jesus overrules.

He knows our physical needs and He knows our spiritual needs and sometimes, the only way He can teach us spiritual lessons is through the elimination of our preoccupation with the things of this world.

In this sense, the current financial crisis will prove to be a great blessing to many people. Many people will take this opportunity to find the Lord and behold His providence. Look, Jesus doesn't ask us to trust in Him only to abandon us. No, Jesus stands today where we will stand tomorrow. He's already standing where we are going!

The Lord is not caught by surprise. If we remain in Him, He will meet our needs as they arise.

So don't worry about tomorrow. Be a good steward today. Be diligent, be positive, anticipate the providential leading of the Lord and even though you may walk through the valley of the shadow of death, there is no reason to fear evil.

Jesus establishes.

Jesus owns.

Jesus overrules.

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

He is the Rock, The Rock of all Ages and He will be your refuge if you will "let go and let God" work things out.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help our unbelief. Give us compassionate hearts. Give us courage in the middle of despair and contentment with whatever we have right now. We know that everything we have belongs to you. Help us to glorify you by helping others during this time of financial anxiety. Amen.

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