

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

RLJ-1912

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PART 18: GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU

YOU CANNOT SERVE TWO MASTERS

Some 2000 years ago Jesus stood in front of a crowd of several thousands of Jews in Galilee. They were fishermen, farmers, carpenters, shoemakers, laborers, government officials, Pharisees, Sadducees, priests, Herodians, along with women and children. With such a mixed crowd and education varying, the Son of God presented a message that was contrary to their custom.

Galilee had a dual type government:

1. It featured a civil government appointed by the senate in Rome and a military occupation force that ensured the population abided by Roman law and taxation.
2. Galilee was also ruled by an Idumean named Herod Antipas who held the title of tetrarch. His seat of power was the city of Tiberias, which was named after a Roman emperor.

Then there were the religious rulers who operated out of the synagogues. They wielded much power because any Jew that did not adhere to the official doctrine of the Talmud could be banned from the synagogue and shunned by the population.

Having this knowledge, you can see why it was controversial when Jesus told the people they could only be loyal to one master. The God-man made it clear there are only two masters on earth – God or Lucifer. **Matthew 6:24**

Eve tried to serve two masters and discovered it was impossible. **Genesis 3:1-7; 16-19; 22-24**

Put yourself in the shoes of the people listening to Jesus.

- ❖ They were forced to give loyalty to the Romans and passionately hated them and Herod Antipas who collected exorbitant taxes and only passed some of it to Rome.
- ❖ In order to function in the Jewish society, it was necessary to pledge loyalty to the priests or be ejected from the synagogues.

The people had several masters and they were loyal to none.

God does not share loyalty with anyone; it is all or nothing to be accepted by the Lord. **Luke 9:57-62**

TRUST

The Jewish people had lived through wars, uprisings, experienced defeat at the hand of the Syrians, Egyptians, and the Romans for hundreds of years. During these violent times, millions of Jews were killed in battle or through the vengeance of invaders.



The economy had started to improve but it was fragile and depended upon the political infighting of the Pharisees, Sadducees, Herodians and foreign nations not leading to a devastating war that would crash of the economy.

The Son of God is incarnated and how the Creator of humanity walks among men. The long-awaited Messiah tried to bring these soul damaged Jews to faith that God would look after them and meet their needs. The God-man was not only speaking to that generation in Galilee, He was speaking to future generations that would be born and become Christians.

Did God take care of the Jews who accepted Jesus as their Messiah? The answer to that question is found in the Book of Acts. The apostle Paul was a tentmaker by trade and used this profession for periods of time. **Acts 18:1-3**

Paul existed mostly on love offerings given to him by churches that he founded. Did Paul become rich? No. But he always had food, clothing and money for transportation. At times he was fed and clothed as a prisoner. Sometimes he was transported as a prisoner on a ship. But regardless of circumstances, Paul was always cared for by Jesus until it was time for him to go home. **2 Corinthians 11:21-33**

Jesus did not offer the people of Galilee riches so they could become like King Solomon or the fame of King David to enjoy a life of wealth and power. The Son of God promised to take care of His own. Thus, wherever you are in the world, Jesus will take care of your needs regardless of the environment.

CORRIE TEN BOOM

Corrie ten Boom was born in Holland in 1892. Her parents were Christians and actively lived out their faith in Christ. Her father was a watchmaker and Corrie eventually became a licensed watchmaker as well. She never married, choosing to stay with her middle-class family.

The situation changed when Germany invaded Holland in 1940. Her faith was tested as she and the family were contacted by Dutch Jews who sought a hiding place from the Gestapo in 1942. Their house was modified to have secret rooms where Jews were hidden. Corrie's lifestyle changed as they had less food to eat, but always enough to sustain them.

A Dutch informer told the Germans what Corrie and her family was doing in 1944 and they were subsequently arrested. They were sent to prison camps in Germany; her father died ten days after his arrest and Corrie's sister, Betsie, died in December of 1944.

Amazingly, Corrie was released from the prison camp twelve days later and made her way back to Holland. She discovered later that it was a clerical error that opened the door for her release. All remaining women in the camp were gassed and cremated.

During her time in the camp, there was always enough food to survive as she and Betsie organized Bible classes and scores of women were born again. Food was scarce during the last six months before the war ended in Europe on May 8, 1945, but Corrie had sufficient food, clothing, and shelter and made it a point to invite the less fortunate to her home.

She worked with refugees in Holland and Germany, wrote books, and started to travel throughout the world as an evangelist. She moved to California in 1977 and stayed there until her death at the age of 91 in 1983. She wrote the best-selling book, "The Hiding Place," which was made into a movie in 1975.

DON'T BE ANXIOUS!

God doesn't want you to stress out. He doesn't want you to worry about your situation, what you're going to eat, where you're going to live, etc. God has a plan for you and when you join his team at the moment of salvation. Being born again grants you access to the protection plan of God. **Acts 3:19; Romans 10:8-13; Ephesians 2:8-9**

Once you have been enrolled in the eternal protection plan of salvation, start leaning on Jesus and begin to proclaim that you are under the greatest insurance program in the universe that was paid for in full by the redemptive work He performed on the cross.

Start enjoying your trip on earth. **Matthew 6:25-34**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?