

## **Provision During Tough Economic Times**

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Sunday, June 19, 2022

**Text:** Mat 6:33

### **Opening Summary**

God provides for His people who trust Him, even in tough economic times. In this lesson, you will see what causes famine to occur in a whole nation. Then you will see even in such times, if you trust Him, He will supernaturally provide for you.

- I. Mat 6:33: What is the kingdom of God?
  - A. Jesus called Himself the kingdom of God.
  - B. The kingdom of God is the righteous family of God.
  - C. The kingdom of God is God's operating system on earth.
  - D. The kingdom of God is the third heaven where God is.
  
- II. Righteousness refers to your standing with God. It entitles you to treatment as though you have never sinned. It allows you to approach Him on that basis (2 Cor. 5:21).
  
- III. 1 Kings 17:1: In that land, there was no water for three and a half years.
  
- IV. Why did the famine happen?
  - A. 1 Kings 16:30-33: This is the short answer.
    1. Ahab angered the Lord more than all the kings of Israel before him.
    2. That national sin produced the famine.
  - B. This is the full answer.
    1. 1 Kings 11:1-9: Solomon started out very well. Then he turned away from the Lord's command. That opened the door to idol worship.
    2. 1 Kings 14:22-24: Each generation thereafter goes further into sin.
  
- V. Lev. 18:22: Who were the sodomites?
  - A. An *abomination* (Heb.: tow`ebah) is something that is *abhorrent and disgusting*.
  - B. Deu. 23:17: The door was opened beginning with Solomon.
    1. Rom 1:18-21: When Solomon turned away from God, his heart was darkened; he would not repent, and he died in that state. Solomon's father, David, sinned but he repented, and God forgave him.
    2. Rom. 1:22-25: There is only male and female and nothing in between.
    3. Rom. 1:26-27: Women desiring women is called *vile affection* and it is sin.

4. Rom. 1:27: A reprobate mind is one without good judgment. It's like thinking a man can be pregnant.
  5. A man with a reprobate mind will look at what God designed and pervert it.
  6. 1 Tim 1:8-10: *"Defile themselves with mankind"* (Gk.: arsenokoites) means *"men who sleep with men."*
  7. *Sound doctrine* is this: a man was designed to be with a woman.
- C. The sin of sodomy or homosexuality was considered normal behavior in the pagan nations of Canaan. The Lord had commanded the Israelites to destroy the pagan nations of Canaan. To God, however, it was one of the most grievous of their abominations.
1. Gen 18:29: There were not even 10 righteous people in the city.
  2. Gen 19:4-11: Sodom and Gomorrha were filled with wickedness.
  3. Jude 1:7: The reason they were destroyed was because of their wickedness.
- VI. 1 Kings 17:1-9: Zarephath, also called Sarepta, is a city between Tyre and Zidon, inhabited by gentiles (Luke 4:26). God is going to provide for his prophet through an unclean bird (a raven) and a gentile who the Jews considered unclean.
- A. Elijah was the first prophet of the gentiles. This woman was a Zidonian, like Jezebel, she was the patroness of the worship of baal, yet she was acquainted with the God of Israel.
  - B. 1 Ki. 17:10-12: The famine was felt in her country because they worshipped baal.
  - C. There is a law of just result: what you sow you will reap.
  - D. 1 Ki. 17:9: I believe God was calling those things that be not as though they were (Rom. 4:17).
  - E. 1 Ki. 17:13-16: Although a gentile, she understood the God of Israel. She proved it with the money test (John 2:5-8).
    1. God helped her with the utensils she thought she would die with.
    2. God wants you to use what is in your hands.
- VII. Mat 6:24: Serve according to what God says.
- A. Mat. 6:25-29: Jesus is talking about the natural things of life.
  - B. Mat. 6:30: Little faith is minimal faith.
  - C. Mat 6:31-32: When you have faith, you watch your mouth.
  - D. Mat. 6:33-34: What you say reinforces your thoughts.
  - E. There's no need to tell God what you don't have. He already knows.
  - F. Express your faith in Him by saying God will supply everything you need.
  - G. Mat. 6:34: Don't focus on things you cannot control. Stay in faith for things you can control.
  - H. Live one day at a time. Pay attention to what you support.

### **Closing Summary**

God is faithful. You have seen even though a nation has done things to open the door to great famine, if you trust God, He will provide for you everything you need. As you focus on the kingdom of God and do what He says, all your needs will be abundantly supplied.