



18

DAY 18

GOD PROMISES TO ALWAYS BE PRESENT

JANUARY 25, 2024

Michael Piett

KEY SCRIPTURE

HEBREWS 13:5 NIV

"...Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

God gives us a promise at the end of this verse that He will never leave us nor forsake us, which means he will never abandon us. The key to this promise is found in the first part of the verse where we are challenged to keep our lives free from the love of money and be content with what we have because God's presence provides all that we need.

God knows our circumstances which we find ourselves in today. Some of us are in a 'high' expense season with children living under our roof, others may be living on a 'shoe-string' budget with little or no wiggle room. It is no mystery to anyone that we all need money to live, but the warning found in the first part of the verse is to keep ourselves from the love of money. Loving money is really trusting that money is the solution to not only our basic needs, but our inner wants and desires. If I just had more money, I could pay these bills. If I had more money, then I could help others and be more generous. If I win some money then my problems will go away.

The second challenge of this verse is 'being content with what you have'. We are bombarded with marketing that emphasizes over and over that we are missing out: there is more, you need 'the more', life will be better with 'the more', and you deserve the 'more'. The two challenges are connected. We need money to feed the desire for more. The problem is that the 'more' will never satisfy and money is not the solution. Hence the verse teaches us that we should not rely on our pursuit of money but instead on the Lord, our Provider, Jehovah Jireh, who will never leave us or forsake us. What is also powerful about this promise is that it is not only found here in the New Testament but was actually referenced from the Old Testament in Deuteronomy 31:6. At that time the Israelites faced hardships, and God promised them that He would go with them and never leave them or abandon them. God called them out of slavery to be His people. Imagine being raised in generational slavery in Egypt and never having any resources of your own. After 40 years of wandering and God's daily provision in the desert, they were about to start a whole new chapter of life in the Promised Land. God was declaring that they could continue to trust in Him to provide for them, just as he had for their forefathers. God encouraged them not to look around and put their trust in anything other than Himself, that He would

never leave them, and they would have all they needed because of Him.

The parallel to this reference in the New Testament hundreds of years later reiterates this same promise of provision. God is still declaring this to us today. We can trust in Him to provide for our needs. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He never fails us, and we also can trust Him. It is our daily choice to surrender our trust in Him for our provision.

Are we going to trust ourselves, our money, our work, our education, or some future inheritance as our hope? There is a lot of unnecessary pressure we carry if we trust money to be our solution. Money is not stable nor dependable. Circumstances change. Much of life is out of our control and it is in the depth of these unknowns that God has alternatively offered us His hand to hold on to. Will we trust God with our needs or our own strength and wisdom?

REFLECTIONS

- ▶ How were you taught growing up in the area of financial provision?
- ▶ Were you raised with the concept you need to take care of yourself, because no one else will?
- ▶ What area in life do you find it hard to be content with and why?
- ▶ Who or what do you trust with your financial needs?
- ▶ Can you remember a time in your life when you know without a doubt God provided for you?

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you promise to never leave or abandon me. I thank you that I can present my needs to you and trust that you will provide. You know me better than anyone. You know what I need. Thank you that I can trust you and not have to rely on my own strength. You alone are good. Amen

18