



Today's Lesson

***Living in Process:  
In the Hands of God***

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**Living in Process: In the Hands of God**



The writer of Matthew gives the reader a detailed description of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount where he outlines Jesus's message and ministry. One of the discourses deals with worry and anxiety.

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Do Not Worry - Matthew 6:25-34

*"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"*

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*"Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;...Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"*

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*"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ...For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."*

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There is a tale that is told of a king and a cobbler that could have been based on Jesus's teaching of do not worry.

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There was once a king who ruled his small country with justice and love. Unknown to his subjects, the king would put on a disguise in the evenings and roam the streets of the towns in order to understand life from the perspective of the people.

One night as he walked in disguise, the king was drawn to a simple cottage. The doors and windows of the house were thrown wide open, and inside a rather robust man was eating and singing with great volume.

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Knocking on the door, the king inquired, "Is a guest welcome here?"

"A guest is a gift from God," the man shouted. "Please, enter and eat with me."

The king sat down and began to eat the very simple but substantial food that rested on the table. The two men talked freely, immediately feeling a bond between them. Finally the king asked, "What is your trade, my friend?"

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"I am a cobbler," came the enthusiastic reply. "Each day I take my tool kit and wander about town fixing people's shoes. They give me some pennies, and I put them in my pocket. When the day is over, I spend it all to buy my evening meal."

"You spend all of your money each day?" the king asked unbelievably. "Don't you save for the future? What about tomorrow?"

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"Tomorrow is in the hands of God, my friend," laughed the cobbler. "He will provide, and I will praise him day by day."

Before the king left that evening, he asked if he might return the next night. "You are always welcome, my friend," the cobbler replied warmly.

On the way home the king developed a plan to test the simple cobbler.

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The next morning he issued a proclamation prohibiting the repair of shoes without a permit. When he returned the next evening he found the cobbler merrily eating and drinking.

"What have you done today, dear friend?" the king asked, hiding his surprise.

"When I heard that our gracious king had issued a proclamation prohibiting the repair of shoes without a permit, I went to the well, drew water, and carried it to the homes of people.

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"They gave me some pennies, I put them in my pocket, and went out and spent it all on this food," the cobbler sang. "Come, eat, there is plenty for all."

"You spent it all?" the king asked. "What if you cannot draw water tomorrow? Then what will you do?"

"Tomorrow is in the hands of God," the cobbler shouted. "He will provide, and I, his simple servant, will praise him day by day."

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The next morning the king decided to test his new friend again. He sent his heralds throughout the land announcing that it was illegal for one person to draw water for another. That evening when he returned to visit the cobbler, he found him eating and drinking and enjoying life as before.

"I worried about you this morning when I heard the king's proclamation. What did you do?"

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"When I heard our good king's new edict, I went out to chop wood. When I had a bundle I brought it to town and sold it. People gave me some pennies, I put them in my pocket, and when the work day was over, I spent it all on this food. Let us eat."

"You worry me," the king said. "What if you cannot chop wood tomorrow?"

"Tomorrow, good friend, is in the hands of God. He will provide."

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Early the next morning the king's heralds announced that all woodchoppers should report immediately to the palace for service in the king's army. The cobbler-turned-woodcutter obediently reported and was trained all day. When evening came, he was given no wages, but he was allowed to take his sword home. On the way home, he stopped at a pawn shop where he sold the blade. Then he bought his food, as usual.

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Returning to his house, he took a piece of wood, carved a wooden blade, attached it to the sword's hilt, and placed it in his sheath.

When the king arrived that evening, the cobbler told him the entire story. "What happens tomorrow if there is a sword inspection?" the king asked.

"Tomorrow is in the hands of God," answered the cobbler calmly. "He will provide."

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In the morning the officer in charge of the palace guard took the cobbler by the arm. "You are to act as executioner today. This man has been sentenced to death. Cut off his head."

"I am a gentle man," the cobbler protested. "I have never hurt another man in my life."

"You will do as you are commanded," the officer shouted.

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As they walked to the place of execution, the cobbler's mind was exploding. As the prisoner knelt before him, the cobbler took the hilt of his sword in one hand, raised his other palm to the heavens, and prayed in a loud voice. "Almighty God, you alone can judge the innocent and the guilty. If this prisoner is guilty, let my sword be sharp and my arms be strong. If, however, he is innocent, let this sword be made of wood."

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Dramatically, the cobbler pulled his sword from the sheath. The people were amazed to see that the sword was made of wood.

The king, who had watched the events from a distance, ran to this friend and revealed his true identity. "From this day forward you will come and live with me. You will eat from my table. I will be the host and you will be the guest. What do you say about that?"

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The cobbler smiled from ear to ear. "What I say is, the Lord has provided, and you and I together will praise him day by day."

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The message Jesus taught and the lesson from the tale of the King and the Cobbler is that everything is in the hands of God, and we can develop the same consciousness so that we can overcome our worry and anxiety of the human condition.

Using a three step method we can create an attitude of gratitude that puts all things in the hands of God.

### Living in Process: In the Hands of God

Step 1 - Seek God by acknowledging that God is First Cause, that nothing here is by accident. The universe and everything in it is here by divine appointment, you, me the animals, the trees, sky, water, earth everything is here by divine manifestation.

Step 2 - Give thanks and praise God for the things we do have and in doing this we build a conscious belief that all our needs will be fulfilled.

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Step 3 - Pray asking for illumination and divine guidance so that we may use the gifts, talents, and inspiration to provide us with the things we need.

Emily Cady in her book, *Lessons in Truth*, declared, "There is something about the mental act of thanksgiving that seems to carry the human mind far beyond the region of doubt into the clear atmosphere of faith and trust, where "all things are possible."

### Living in Process: In the Hands of God

Even if at first you are not conscious of having received anything from God, do not worry or cease from your thanksgiving."

It is said that praise neither affects nor increases God, but it enlarges our own consciousness so that we can receive all the good God has prepared for us. By building a habit of praise and thanksgiving we develop a consciousness like that of the cobbler and letting it all rest in the hands of God.