

## CONSIDER THE LILIES

Text: Matthew 6:28-30

INTRO: Many of the lessons of Jesus were illustrated by common things that surrounded Him & His disciples as He taught them. Here Jesus instructs His learners to consider (Gr. KATAMANTHANO, to learn thoroughly, to note accurately) the lilies. Let us for the next few minutes consider the lilies of the field to recognize some things of which we need to be aware.

### I. CONSIDER THE LILIES OF THE FIELD.

A. A lily makes a beautiful decoration in a golden vase in the palace of a king, or in a beautiful piece of pottery in a great auditorium, or even in a somewhat common pot in an humble home or hospital room—but the lily is no less beautiful or fragrant in the field or pasture where it grows. It doesn't have to be plucked or potted to be a lily. It is a lily no matter where it is.

B. Tho it is commendable for a person to seek to better his lot in life & to do so when the opportunity presents itself, each Christian should focus his primary attention on being a Christian where he is.

1. Preachers & public teachers are needed to spread the gospel, but...

2. There is just as much a place for auto mechanics, TV repairmen, businessmen & women, statesmen, etc., who are Christians. In fact, any one of these individuals who is truly a Christian exerting the influence he has to further the cause of Christ will probably have greater impact on those who are not Christians than the most skillful & articulate gospel preacher. Most folks had rather see a sermon than hear one any day. Do they see a gospel sermon in the way you live?

I'll stay where You've put me, I will, dear Lord,  
Tho I wanted so badly to go.  
I was eager to march at the battle front,  
I wanted to lead them, You know.  
I planned to keep step to the music loud,  
To cheer when the banner unfurled,  
To stand in the midst of the fight straight & proud  
When the enemy's darts were hurled—  
But I'll stay where You've put me.

I'll stay where You've put me, I will, dear Lord,  
Tho the field be narrow and small,  
And the ground lies fallow & the stones are thick  
And there seems to be no life at all.  
The field is Thine own—only give me the seed,  
And I'll sow it with never a fear;  
I'll till the dry soil while I wait for the rain  
And rejoice when the green blades appear.  
I'll stay where You've put me.

I'll stay where You've put me, I'll work, dear Lord,  
I'll bear the day's burden and heat,  
Always trusting Thee fully. When evening is come  
I'll lay heavy sheaves at Thy feet.  
And then when my life work is ended & done,  
In the light of eternity's glow—  
Life's record all closed I surely shall find  
'Twas better to stay than to go—  
So I'll stay where You've put me.

II. CONSIDER... HOW THEY GROW. God has provided  
for all living things to grow.

- A. Bulb—green plant—beautiful fragrant flower.
- B. Human being: infant—adolescent—adult, 1 Cor 13:11
- C. The Christian grows from a babe in Christ to a full-grown man or woman—or at least he should.

- 1. Apostle John: MK 9:38; LK 9:54; disciple of love

2. John Mark: Acts 15:37-39; 2 Tim. 4:11

III. CONSIDER THE LILIES... THEY TOIL NOT, NEITHER SPIN.

A. Because they can't. If they could, they would. They serve every purpose God meant them to serve.

B. Man is blessed in that he is a creature of choice. He can toil, he can spin, he can exercise a great deal of control over his own affairs—and because he can labor in honest endeavors, God requires him to do so. Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:10

IV. CONSIDER... THAT EVEN SOLOMON IN ALL HIS GLORY WAS NOT ARRAYED AS ONE OF THESE.

A. Solomon himself recognized the great beauty, splendor & fragrance of the lily.

1. Called the Shulamite a lily of the valley, 2:1-  
2. Compared the sweetness of her lips to the fragrance of a lily, 5:13

3. Used the lilly as a pattern for much of the decoration in the temple, 1 Kings 7:19, 22, 26.

B. Solomon's adornment was of silver & gold, purple & linen, but all these adornments were outward & temporal.

C. The lily's adornment is part of the lily itself.

D. Likewise, the child of God, while he is not completely oblivious to the outward adorning, must have as his basic & chief adornment, a heart attuned to God.

1 Peter 3:3-4, Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel-- rather let it be the hidden person of

the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

1 Tim 2:9-10, In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

V. CONSIDER... THE LILY IS HERE TODAY & GONE TOMORROW IS CAST INTO THE OVEN. Scholars tell us that their ovens used dried grass & twigs for fuel.

A. Tho the lily of the field is but a temporary adornment or decoration on the earth, because it serves the purpose God meant for it to serve, God supplies its needs. God does for the lily what the lily cannot do for itself.

1. God provides the rain & the nutrients in the soil to be soaked up by the root system of the lily.
2. God supplies the sunshine that is taken in thru the leaves to provide nourishment for the lily.

B. Man, made in God's image, is destined for perpetual consciousness. The man, woman, accountable boy or girl, by living as God wills for him or her to live, has the assurance that God will provide for us the things we need to sustain our lives, Matt. 6:33.

VI. CONSIDER, GOD WILL MUCH MORE CLOTHE YOU..., vs. 31-34.

La Porte, TX, April 2, 1978  
Exont, PA, May 17, 1987  
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, April 16, 1995.