

# Biblical Preparedness

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## What type of Preparedness?

Some time back I spoke on “Preparing Our Hearts for the Day of the Lord.” I talked about the coming turmoil in the Earth, and how Christians needed to prepare their hearts to stand before the Son of Man, to not be offended, to not shrink back from Jesus the Judge, and to resist the devil.

However, this message is more focused on the physical side of things. The Lord has been dealing with my heart so strongly lately about preparing for the failing of our governmental and societal system—and not to rely on it.

I believe there is great wisdom in Christians physically preparing for a time when public utilities and food sources may not be available or may be very hard to come by. I will not use a single scare tactic to try to convince you of this. I will leave it to the Holy Spirit to convince (convict) you of the seriousness of this message, and I’ll just present to you what has been on my heart.

## Examples of What to do

- Growing food
- Storing water
- Having a way to purify water—this includes understanding our surroundings and learning where the closest sources of water are
- Developing skills and having tools needed for living and cooking without public utilities like electricity or gas (for heat and lights), water, sewage, etc.
- Getting off of prescription drugs and over the counter medicines as much as possible
  - No condemnation here, but some of our reliance on drugs is self-inflicted and unnecessary. Some of it is simply the extremely powerful and rich pharmaceutical companies doing what they are good at—peddling drugs to doctors who pass them on to you.
  - If you are on drugs to help a condition that could go away with a change in lifestyle, then change your lifestyle—asking the Holy Spirit to help you.
  - If you are on drugs for a condition that can’t necessarily be helped with a change of lifestyle, then study about natural elements that can help. God did provide all kinds of naturally growing things that can help our conditions—and of course He does heal too, right?
  - Also, just a quick thought, I actually don’t believe that there is a condition that can’t be healed without medicine. A lot of our modern health problems are man-made and are the result of processed foods and chemicals. A change in diet can heal a lot of things—even if man says they are hereditary.
  - God Heals and Delivers

## Why do this?

Primarily because the societal and governmental system that we live in will fall apart. There have been multiple prophecies about this from the Bible and from recent times. We may not know every detail of what will happen, but we know that it will be bad.

## We Should Not Trust in Man-Made Systems

This is not a political discussion (although it could be)—it is really a spiritual one. I have no desire to bash our president or any other appointed officials. I have a desire to point out what God already warned us about in his word.

Things will turn from bad to worse for the world. What we now call our government will one day be ruled by the antichrist. This is not a teaching on the book of Revelation—so I won't go in to detail on this point.

However, if we live our lives in full reliance on the Government and Wal-Mart for everything that we need, then one day we will watch our whole world slip out from under our feet and we will be left wondering how we will provide for ourselves and our families. Jesus is King; we live under his rule and government even now—spiritually. But we also can physically.

## To Provide for the Poor and Needy

I am not talking about hoarding up food and hiding in our basements until Jesus returns. I am talking about being prepared to Live and Thrive in a time of great desolation and tribulation—to whatever degree possible. In doing that, we—the church—will be preparing to provide not just for ourselves, but for the poor, for our neighbors, for anyone who is in need.

## Why not trust God?

This sounds like self-reliance, you might say. Why not trust God? **This is trusting God**—to do what He has always done. It is also being obedient to God.

## The Ant

Obedience—consider the ant. Don't be a sluggard (habitually inactive or lazy).

### Prov 6:6-11 (NIV)

**6** Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!

**7** It has no commander, no overseer or ruler,

**8** yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

**9** How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?

**10** A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest--

**11** and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.

## Joseph

Storing up Food—by the design and plan of God.

### Gen 41:46-49 (NIV)

**46** Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt. **47** During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. **48** Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. **49** Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure.

### Gen 45:4-8 (NIV)

**4** Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! **5** And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. **6** For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. **7** But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. **8** "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God."

God made the plan for Joseph to store up food for hard times—not man.

## The Storehouse

This is not a teaching on tithing. It is a teaching on the Biblical Storehouse. God has always intended for us to store up food to provide for those in need. This is the only place in scripture where God actually goes as far as to say TEST ME. Do this—store up food in the storehouse—and see if I won't pour out a blessing so large that you cannot contain it. I will forego a discussion on the perversions of this scripture having to do with personal wealth and lavishness.

### Mal 3:6-12 (NIV)

**6** "I the Lord do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. **7** Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?' **8** "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. **9** You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me. **10** Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. **11** I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the Lord Almighty. **12** "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty.

Anyone who does not acknowledge that this is talking about God blessing those who store up food for the poor and needy, and that it is speaking of him blessing the source of that food in reaction to this is ignoring the plain meaning of the scripture, and may be in danger of using scripture to serve their own purposes.

## The Boy

The boy with 5 loaves and two fish.

### **John 6:8-9 (NIV)**

**8** Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, **9** "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

### **Mark 6:35-44 (NIV)**

**35** By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. **36** Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat." **37** But he answered, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "That would take eight months of a man's wages ! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?" **38** "How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see." When they found out, they said, "Five--and two fish." **39** Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. **40** So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. **41** Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. **42** They all ate and were satisfied, **43** and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. **44** The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

Jesus expected the Disciples to feed the people—and they still did. They brought food from someone who was prepared. Note that Jesus did not multiply food from thin air. He multiplied food from someone who brought it—someone who was prepared, and then the disciples gave it to those in need.

## **Conclusion**

This isn't about not trusting God—it is about trusting him to do what he has always done. Whether through extremely efficient preparation like that of Joseph at just the right time and just the right place, or like the Storehouse through a process of continual preparation, or by a miracle from what little we do have prepared like the boy with 5 loaves and two fish—we trust God to provide, and we will be obedient and prepare.

## **Don't Worry, but Prepare**

Jesus did say DON'T WORRY about tomorrow—don't have anxiety about it. But seek His Kingdom FIRST. Don't physically prepare for disaster and have lamps without oil. Do FIRST THINGS FIRST and BE WISE.

### **Matt 6:31-34 (NIV)**

**31** So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' **32** For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **34** Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

### **Matt 25:1-4 (NIV)**

**1** "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. **2** Five of them were foolish and five were wise. **3** The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. **4** The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.