

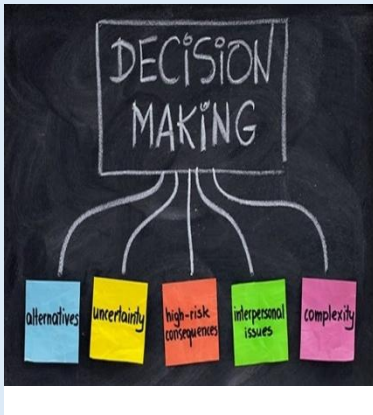
Inspirational story based on **Matthew 6:24–34...**

Raymond's Story: Choosing Trust Over Worry



Raymond was a young professional in Atlanta, juggling two jobs and a mountain of bills. Every morning, he woke up with a knot in his stomach, scrolling through his banking app before even brushing his teeth. His mind was split between chasing promotions and trying to keep up with the lifestyle he thought he needed.

Lucille, his older sister, often reminded him, *“Ray, you can’t serve two masters. You’ll end up loving one and hating the other.”* She wasn’t quoting herself—she was echoing words she had read in Scripture. But Raymond brushed it off, convinced that money was the only way to secure peace.



One evening, after a long day, Raymond met Flint, his college friend, at a coffee shop. Flint was laid-back, wearing thrifted clothes and sipping his latte without a care. Raymond vented about rent, car payments, and the endless grind. Flint listened quietly, then said, *“Look at the birds outside, man. They’re not stressing about paychecks, yet they’re fed. Don’t you think life’s about more than chasing numbers?”*

That night, Raymond couldn’t sleep. He replayed Lucille’s words and Flint’s casual wisdom. He thought about the lilies he’d seen blooming in Piedmont Park—effortlessly beautiful, not hustling for recognition.

The next morning, instead of checking his bank account first thing, Raymond stepped outside. The crisp air carried a sense of calm. He realized that his constant worry hadn't added a single hour to his life. Slowly, he began to shift his focus: less on money, more on meaning. He started volunteering at a local shelter, spending weekends with Lucille, and calling Flint just to laugh about old times.



Raymond didn't suddenly become wealthy, but he found something richer: peace. He learned that when he sought purpose and trust first, the rest had a way of falling into place.

✦ Moving A HEADD

- You can't serve both God and money.
- Don't worry about food, clothing, or tomorrow—life is more than these.
- Look at the birds and lilies: they thrive without worry.
- Seek first the kingdom, and everything else will follow.