

The Rock: 11-13-2022

A year with the Master

Title: Give us this day our daily bread

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-11, Exodus 16:1-12
(Black bible Pg. 761, ESV)

Theme:

Looking at God's provision and our utter dependence on Him does not remove our responsibilities in life and the life of the Church.

Introduction:

As we continue through this prayer, and as we approach Thanksgiving, I find it good to be reminded of God's provision for us.

I think about this man named Agur. Who? Well, he is the one who actually wrote Proverbs 30, and it's there we find a text that should remind us of a balanced life.

A balanced life starts with our dependance on God -not for too much, nor for too little. But what is necessary, our daily bread.

-Proverbs 30:7-9 (ESV)

"Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: Remove far from me

falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God."

Last week, having ended with verses from Paul's letter to the Thessalonian church and Peter's letter to the church worldwide, this will be a good foundation as we work through, "Give us this day..."

We should take notice here that there is a shift now in the prayer of Jesus. We have looked at God in Heaven, His holiness, and His kingdom coming and will being done.

All are upward adoration and praise for who He is and what He wants to do in and through us. Starting this morning, we are going to shift to God's provision and working on our behalf as we live our lives out in His world.

Martyn Lloyd Jones, in his book on the Sermon on the Mount says that:

"Our whole life is found there in these three petitions, and that is what makes this prayer so utterly amazing."

-SISOTM Pg. 341-342

-Matthew 6:11 (ESV)

"Give us this day our daily bread..."

As we move forward in this let's keep a couple things in mind. That Jesus is telling us to pray daily for our daily needs.

Within that, even though He says our daily bread, it can be understood that HE is wanting us to depend upon God for all daily needs, both physical and spiritual, not simply our food.

As we get to Exodus 16, our second reading, we also want to remember that the purpose was and is to "practice" God's provision.

Trusting Him every day to provide for our needs. This actually becomes a training of our spirit against worry.

Jesus challenges us here in this verse to think differently than the world.

Remember, we don't pray like the hypocrites and pagans do.

Rather, we pray with the assurance that our Father in Heaven knows our needs before we even ask. Looking at that verse we hadn't unpacked yet:

-Matthew 6:8 (ESV)

"Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

HE wants to provide for us. That happens miraculously at times, but most often He does so through our faithful obedience to Him and His call in our lives.

The Story:

That why Exodus 16 becomes a great place to start to see God's established way of doing things, as well as our constant struggle to be obedient to that way.

So again, to understand what He is trying to tell us here when He tells us to pray for our daily bread, we need to, again, read our Bibles.

Doing so in such a way which we remind ourselves that it has a story to tell. One that can get lost if we just read little sections as if they were and are the complete story.

If we do that, it would seem to me that God becomes that "guy" we go to only when we need something.

As if the simple asking will bring it all about. Kind of like asking God for a fruitful garden, but never planting any seeds of plants. Then staring out the window and wondering why God didn't give you tomatoes.

Well, because we have a part to play and yet at the same time always remembering

to give God thanks because He is holy, and that His will being done seems to mean in part our participation in His plan of reconciliation.

In other words, knowing His will always leads to doing His will. It leads to an active healthy church community seeking those who are lost and making life long followers of Jesus.

Knowing that as we live, move and have our being, again doing God's will, God's way in God's world, we will always have God's provision along the way.

But to focus specifically on, "give us this day...", His people needed this reminder shortly after they had been freed from slavery in Egypt.

In typical human fashion, they started to grumble, to focus on the negative and the needs of the moment:

-Exodus 16:1-3 (ESV)

"They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and the people of

Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

A short six weeks, and they are remembering life as slaves much differently. We sat by meat pots and ate till our bellies were full.

Never once had that happened to them. In fact, they were overworked, underfed, and uncared for.

Yet, it seems the "suffering" that came with such dramatic change causes a rose-colored view of past circumstances. It is human nature, actually.

How many times have we started down the road knowing full well that God has set our feet on that course, only to hit rough spots, and find ourselves instantly questioning if we should have ever left where we were?

That thinking, attitude comes from a lack of trust in God's provision, in who He is. We all struggle with this at different levels, after-all, we are just human beings.

Self-reliance, short-term memories - these are both very dangerous things on

our journey as followers of Jesus, and being conformed to His likeness.

Add to this, something we all do our best to avoid, and who wouldn't: suffering. Even when it is just in the short-term. Most especially when we live in the land of plenty.

How many of you get hungry? How many of you actually go hungry? Not many. How many get hangry?

You know, angry because you are hungry - Hangry...

I haven't eaten in like, you know, three hours, so I get agitated. Or I come home hungry and what's for supper isn't what I wanted.

Well, it seems here in our text, that God's freed people have a hangry problem that reveals a deeper issue of a trust problem. Will God take care of us each and every day?

What do we find? Back to our text:

-Exodus 16:4-7 (ESV)

"Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in

my law or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we, that you grumble against us?"

The purpose of His provision of "daily bread", is proof of His faithfulness to His promises. The question is, 'will we be obedient to do what we are called to do in the midst of His fulfilling those promises?

He has promised to provide for their everyday needs -nothing more, and nothing less. Remember our first text this morning from Proverbs? Too much and I forget you -too little and I profane your name (curse you).

Give us this day our daily bread.

Two things for us to see here. One is God's provision. He will give enough each day and double the amount on one day, so His people can rest.

That is a sermon in itself for folks who think the world will fall apart if they take time off.

Two- our responsibility. There seems to be a consistent theme here in the Bible, isn't there?

The / we are called to gather/ IE: Do our part within His good plan. Trust Him to provide, yes. But don't sit back and expect to have it magically fall into your lap.

As much as it depends on us, and as much as we have the ability, we are to do the work through which He provides our daily bread. Our text last week from Thessalonians, remember.

Yet, we are not to worry as we work, that somehow, He will fail to provide for us. All of Exodus chapter 16 is a grumbling against God's "lack of provision", and then their perception of too little provision, and then just outright rebellion against His command to trust Him when He does provide.

How little we have changed, and I leave that with you to read this week, this Exodus 16 and beyond.

What you will discover is that they gather more than they should (some of them), while others don't gather enough.

Yet, God brought balance there in that neither had more or less than needed, and yet they still grumbled.

-Exodus 16:18-20 (ESV)

"But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over till the morning." But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them."

-Exodus 16:27-30 (ESV)

"On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws? See! The Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Remain each of you in his place; let no one go out of his place on the seventh day." So the people rested on the seventh day."

Give us this day, seems also to be tied to, On the seventh day, rest.

In other words, trust and understand that God is in control, and we are not. Also, that obedience is better than sacrifice.

He will always provide for our daily needs -we must be obedient to Him and His commands.

I think it very important to see that this day of rest is attached here to this. Why? Well, we are designed to take that one day for two reasons.

The first is to actually rest, and the second is by doing so, we are reminding ourselves that God is in heaven, His name is holy, He is our Father and He will take care of us.

Resting and setting aside our daily routines for that one day to focus on Him and His provision, seeking Him out in praise and prayer, brings us to that place of realization.

Are you writing in your journals the things God is showing you? The things you are thankful for, even in times of struggle. Those are helpful markers along the way to remind you of His faithfulness.

As I reflect back, I am always drawn to King David and Psalm 37 -I've shared this before, so forgive me for those who have heard it.

But in the more than 35 years of marriage, we have had our share of ups and downs (That's called life). I've been

laid off twice, struggled and been without, and wondered and worried how I would provide.

Yet, I go back to Psalm 37:25-26, now as a man in my middling years, I see what David did:

-Psalms 37:25-26 (ESV)

"I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing."

We come to the table of God's provision this morning. The bread and the cup, our reminders of God's provision in and through Jesus the bread of life.

The Lord's prayer is so powerful and is so for many reasons, but to hear Jesus teach it, knowing as N.T. Wright says, it is a reflection of who Jesus Himself is and what He has done -this line more than others stands out to me.

The people of Israel were delivered from the bondage of slavery in Egypt and were given for 40 years, bread from heaven.

A picture of Jesus, and His work on the cross. A clear view of His provision and delivering us from bondage as well,

bondage as slaves to sin and the brokenness of this world.

In a very powerful scene in John's gospel, the next day after Peter had walked on water, crowds began gathering again, and Jesus taught them.

With this we will prepare our hearts and minds to receive the table of the Lord, to sing the Lord's prayer and then open the altar this morning:

-John 6:26-35 (ESV)

"Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the

bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

Come to Him, receive not just daily bread, but everlasting life.