

GOD'S WORD – OUR DAILY BREAD FROM HEAVEN

Luke 11:3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

Exodus 16:4 Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

When the Lord Jesus told us to pray, “Give us day by day our daily bread”, the Jews who heard him no doubt thought about the miracle of the manna in the wilderness. The Lord Jesus was not just talking about earthly food, but the Word of God which is more important than our physical sustenance. One reason the prophet Job is mentioned as one of three righteous men on the earth is because he esteemed the Word of God more than physical nourishment. “Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food” (Job 23:12). Let us meditate on the importance of the Word of God to motivate us to be like Job. Humans look below to the earth for food, but God thought the children of Israel to look heavenward every day for their physical food.

Exodus 16:15 And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.

John 6:33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

John 6:34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Let us say with those Jews, “Lord, evermore give us this bread”. How are we to eat the heavenly manna that is Jesus? To begin with we must gather a portion each and every day; day by day, as the children of Israel did in the desert. “This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents” (Exodus 16:16). An omer is equivalent to 2.3 kilograms of manna for each family. Notice that any extra manna would not last until the next day.

Exodus 16:19 And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning.

Exodus 16:20 Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.

Exodus 16:21 And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.

The best food is fresh food and God wants his people to gather sufficient manna for each day, not yesterday's manna. God did not want anyone hoarding and making a profit off his divine provision. The Word of God has nothing to do with capitalism and the market of greed. No one should do business with the Word of God. The problems of each day are unique; we need a fresh message from God for today's challenges. "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Matthew 6:34). Let us consider one example: social media. I think you will agree with me if that we need fresh manna from the Lord today to understand its challenges and how to deal with it. "And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it" (Numbers 11:9). Notice that the manna was in the dew; the dew represents the Holy Spirit of Jesus. The Spirit of Jesus reveals new things to us every day and helps us to deal with the challenges of the present. God's mercies and solutions are new every morning, according to Jeremiah.

Lam 3:22 *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*

Lam 3:23 *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

We also witness that God was punctual and faithful in his provision of manna every day for forty years. No one needs to worry about the Word of God running dry. Pastors, saints, have faith in the God of the manna! He will not let you down; he will rain his Word fresh every day into your hearts and souls. Go out by faith to gather an omer for the day. Just imagine for a moment the complete shock and awe the first witnesses experienced when they saw the manna. Joshua and Caleb were there the first day the manna fell and the last day when it stopped. Consider the kind of conversations they must have had with children who were born years later after the first wave of manna fell. I haven't been in the Lord for 40 years yet – hopefully in a few more years. Already I find myself telling many of you who became Christians 2 or 10 or even 20 years ago about the great mercies of God since I saw Jesus in 1986. I have been preaching the word of God way back in 1992 as a Sunday school teacher in Oslo. I can tell you that his manna falls every day, every year without break for those who are willing to go out and gather. I am not yet old, but I can appreciate the words of Solomon.

Psalms 37:25 *I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*

Heb 13:8 *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

Furthermore, everyone had to go out and gather the manna most probably on his or her knees or bowing down. Before the exile to Babylon, the children of Israel disrespected the Word of God. King Jehoiakim even tore pages from the the prophecy of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 36:23 And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.

Jeremiah 36:24 Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, neither the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words.

Not long after, the children of Judah went into exile in Babylon. It took seventy years for them to repent and learn to respect the Word of God. Note how they responded when Ezra the scribe read the Word of God to their children before the return to Israel.

Nehemiah 8:6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

The children of Israel went out every one to gather manna. There were no big “Is” or little “Yous”. They all had to go out the same way and gather the same way. Each Israelite family had to grind the manna in a mortar to prepare and eat it. God gives freely and liberally but everyone has to work with the Word of God. We must labor to understand the Word of God. God was displeased with the tribe of Ephraim because they took his Word lightly. “I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing” (Hosea 8:12). May we listen to the Word of God carefully like the Bereans who heard Paul and searched the scriptures!

Exodus 16:22 And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses.

Finally, I wish to suggest to you that we are the generation living in the sixth day before the return of the Lord. We must gather twice as much manna because the days are evil. Don't you think the Devil knows his time is short and hence has increased his activity on earth? This is one reason we come to conferences such as this in Switzerland – to gather twice as much. Jesus is returning soon, saints of God! The battle is hardening and we must put on the full armor of God to stand in the evil day, said Paul. May you take twice the amount of manna back with you from this conference!