

## **Give Us Our Daily Bread:** the Lord's Prayer—part 4 of 6

### **Matthew 6:9-13 King James Version (KJV)**

<sup>9</sup>After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

<sup>10</sup>Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>**Give us this day our daily bread.** <sup>12</sup>And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

### **Introduction**

Recap: **God is our Father, His name is holy, He is the Lord of heavens and the earth.**

We have been doing a series on the Lord's Prayer. So far, we learned that prayer is a relationship. God in Heaven is our Father, and we are His beloved children. When we say, "Hallowed be Thy name," we bless, honor, fear, and stand in awe before the very name of the Lord. If we go after other gods or take the name of the Lord in vain, it will provoke our Lord to jealousy and anger, therefore, our prayers will be rejected. It is the Lord, not the devil, who is in control of both heavens and the earth no matter how bad the world appears to be. Until Christ comes, we are called to serve in God's army to restore God's Kingdom on earth one person and one family at a time. Engaged in the spiritual warfare against 'the god of this world' and his followers, we need to put on the full armor of God that includes prayer.

### **Content**

In the next three Sundays, I will talk about: **Bread, Forgiveness, and Temptation.**

Here's a snapshot: today, we are going to think about #1 *physical need* for our survival, that is, **daily bread**. Next Sunday, we are going to ponder #1 *spiritual need* in our relationship with God and with each other: **forgiveness**. On the following Sunday, we will study **temptation**; who's behind it and how to overcome it.

Let's look at verse 11: **Give us this day our daily bread**. Keep in mind the meaning of 'daily' here. It is daily 'necessary,' not daily 'what we want.' My own translation from Greek text: *give us this very day the bread that is necessary for our existence*. In the Message Bible, Eugene Peterson puts well this way: **Keep us alive with three square meals**.

Three lessons for us:

**Lesson #1:** Daily bread means our **daily necessities, not daily luxuries or daily desires.** Bread is the substance that is fundamental to our survival. Please note here that we don't pray to God, "Give us this day **what we want.**" Rather we say, "Give us **what we need.**" E.g., The Great Depression generation learned firsthand this lesson. When they were growing up, they didn't have much and had to rely on the basic necessities. They learned to be thankful and content with whatever they had on the plate. No one complained about not having luxuries. In fact, it's the same generation that made our nation great and supported our nation through their faithful commitments. I'm not sure I can say the same thing for the next generations starting with the Baby Boomers (1946 – 1964), Generation X (1960 – 1980), the Millennials (1980s – 2000) and Generation Z (2001- present). These generations seem not to understand the meaning and the secret of contentment and commitment. I hear that the opposite is often true: the younger generations today believe in 'entitlement' without working hard. If they don't have it, it's usually someone else's fault, not theirs.

**Question:** is everyone's daily need the same? The answer is 'yes' according to Jesus. Once I preached on the daily necessities and contentment thereof. One rich man in the congregation came to me after the service and said, "Pastor, my need is different from yours. You may be content with the basic necessities, but my needs are far greater than yours." Well, I understood what he meant, because he was a millionaire. He owned a big house whose value was over a million dollars. He paid a lot of money for property taxes. He had four cars and so forth.

But let me tell you this: when Jesus says, '**daily bread,**' he means '**three square meals.**' We are blessed enough to have three square meals, but back then, 2000 years ago in Israel, people understood 'daily bread' as 'two square meals.' I looked up for this phrase in Geneva Bible which was published about a half century before King James Version (KJV was published in 1611. But Geneva Bible was published in 1560, so it preceded KJV). Anyway, a footnote in the Geneva Bible for 'Give us our daily bread' says, "*daily food that may suffice our nature and complexion.*" God has given everyone one stomach. Three square meals are sufficient to keep us healthy. Give us our daily necessities.

**Lesson #2:** Daily bread means **daily trust in the Lord.** *This very day* (v. 11). *Today. Every day.* Jesus commands us not to worry about tomorrow, because God knows what we need, and He will provide. Let me tell you the story of manna in the Old Testament. The story helps us to understand the point I'm making: '*daily bread*' means '*daily trust in the Lord.*'

The LORD God brought the people of Israel out of Egypt into the wilderness where they wandered around for 40 years. In the wilderness, the LORD fed them, more than 1.5 million people, not just a day or two, but for 40 years. Now, the daily bread the LORD gave

them was called manna [literal meaning, “what (*man*) is it (*hu*)?”]. When they first saw it, they had no idea what it was, so they called it, “What in the world is *this*?” That's where the name came from.

For six days each week, Sunday through Friday, manna appeared every morning with dew and disappeared when the sun grew hot. God's people would go out morning after morning and collected them. Listen to the Scriptures (Exodus and Numbers): <sup>7</sup>*Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium* (most of us have not seen it, but bdellium looks like frankincense. It's a resin that tree produces--kc). <sup>8</sup>*The people would go about and gather it and grind it between two millstones or beat it in the mortar, and boil it in the pot and make cakes with it; and its taste was as the taste of cakes baked with oil.* <sup>9</sup>*When the dew fell on the camp at night, the manna would fall with it* (Numbers 11:7-9). It was ‘white, and its taste was like wafers with honey’ (Exodus 16:31). Each person was supposed to collect one ‘omer’ (Exodus 16:16). Omer was a dry measurement--one tenth of a bushel. *Some gathered much and some little.* <sup>18</sup>*When they measured it with an omer he who had gathered much had no excess, and he who had gathered little had no lack; every man gathered as much as he should eat* (Exodus 16:17-18). No one went hungry. *Some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms inside and became foul* (Exodus 16:20). It was not meant to be kept overnight nor designed to last more than a day.

God kept His promise to give daily manna to His people for 40 years in the wilderness [let's do the numbers here: 365 days a year x 40 years x 1/10 of a bushel per person x 1.5 million people = approximately 2.2 billion bushels]. If you convert it to a daily provision, each day, God supplied 150,000 bushels (150 of 18-wheelers) of food without missing one single day! What do you call such a God? Faithful! He is the faithful God!

It gets even more interesting here. Every Friday morning, the day before the sabbath, unlike the preceding days, God gave them a two-day-portion of manna. Why? Because God rested on the sabbath and kept it holy. *Do not go out there and work, God says, I'm not giving you anything on the day of sabbath.* So, this is what happened: Manna miraculously started back again on the day after the sabbath because people ran out of food. *The manna ceased on the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the [Promised] land* (Joshua 5:12).

God produced two different kinds of manna: Manna ‘Type 1,’ Sunday through Thursday, that goes bad if you keep it overnight. Manna ‘Type 2,’ given on Friday morning, that lasts for two days. Now look at the pattern here: God gave ‘Type 1’ manna for five days. On the sixth day, Friday, ‘Type 2.’ How many years? For 40 years. The 40-year practice with manna taught the Israelites one important lesson: When it comes down to daily needs, **trust**

**in the Lord and in His faithfulness.** You can count on God's faithfulness every day. The same God still provides us with our bread in accordance with His promises. He will not fail us.

I've been a Christian for almost 50 years. If you ask me if God has ever failed me, my answer is 'No!' He has never failed me. That's my honest testimony. I pray and hope that every one of us will testify the same. He is the faithful God whom we can trust. Every day.

**Lesson #3:** Bread of the earth vs. Bread of Heaven. Moses summed up very nicely the lesson of manna to the people of Israel as they were about to enter the Promised Land. This is what he said to them: *He [the LORD] humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord* (Deuteronomy 8:3). Moses concluded saying, God did it *“for your own good in the end”* (Deuteronomy 8:16). Jesus reminds us of the same lesson: we cannot live by bread alone, but we live by the word of God that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. Most of us are so much concerned about the physical bread that we totally forget the heavenly bread. God says, *My child. You need more than bread for your body. Take the bread of Heaven for your spirit, which is the Word of God.*

**Question:** Do you love yourself? I am sure you do. That's why you seldom miss a meal. What about your spirit? Is your spirit healthy or famished? When did you feed your spirit with the bread of Heaven? The sad part is that we don't even realize how famished our spirits are and believe that everything is OK as long as we have three square meals. Be sure to take God's Word the bread of Heaven daily. Your spiritual survival and growth depend on it. Your spirit needs it.

## **Conclusion**

Be content with God's daily provision. Trust in Him day in day out for your needs. Get into the Word of God daily for your spiritual nourishment. Then, you will be blessed. Amen.