

“OUR DAILY BREAD”

Pastor Mike Corwin

LORD’S PRAYER PART 5

TEXT: MARK 6:30-44

GOD’S WORD: EXODUS 16:1-3, 11-20

I – MANNA FROM HEAVEN:

The Israelites had come to Egypt to find food during the time of famine and were taken care of by Joseph who ruled the land for Pharaoh, who we talked about in last week’s message. Entire generations die off and the Israelites are still in Egypt where they are becoming a worry to the new Pharaoh who ends up making them slaves to build his cities. They work for many years for this harsh taskmaster and they finally begin crying out to God for help and the Bible tells us that God heard their cries and sent a deliverer, who we know as Moses.

Moses does what God asks him to do and ends up leading the entire Israelite nation out of Egypt and into the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. As we picked up the story in this morning’s reading you heard that a month out of Egypt they were becoming disgruntled because they had no food to eat and were afraid they would starve. Evidently they had forgotten God’s power as it was displayed in the plagues he sent and the waters he parted. God again hears their moaning and groaning and tells Moses not to worry. In the evening he would provide them with meat and in the morning would be bread. Each evening Quail covered the ground and each morning bread, called manna, covered the ground. The people would not starve after all.

Have you ever wondered though, why they were only allowed to gather what they could eat in one day? Why weren’t they allowed to collect as much as they could, hoard it, and eat off of it for the entire week if it would keep? After all wouldn’t it have meant less work for God? Why did God have it rot every night?

II – DAILY LIFE FROM GOD:

I believe the reason God did this can be found in verse 12 of this passage from Exodus. God says, “In the evening you will have meat to eat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread” - then the key to the passage – “Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.”

What's God saying here? He's saying that he wants the people to count on him daily for life. You cannot live without food can you? If you go hungry long enough you will die. Any book on nutrition will tell you that to be healthy, to have your body function properly, you must feed it daily. God wanted the people to rely on him daily for their survival. And it was about much more than just food. God wanted them to have daily contact, daily communion with him. He wanted them to think of him each and every day, not just once a week but every morning when the bread came, and every evening when the meat arrived he wanted them to remember he was God and to worship him. God wants his people to think of him and have special moments with him each day, not just the first Sunday of each month.

Moses wrote the book of Exodus and he also wrote the book of Deuteronomy. If we skip ahead to that book we find these words of clarification in Deuteronomy 8:3 where Moses says,

“Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people need more than bread for their life; real life comes by feeding on every word of the Lord.”

To live a full life means to worry not only about our physical appetite, but to worry about our spiritual appetite as well. It means that we need to worry not only about our stomach, but also about our soul and to realize the source of nutrition for both is from God.

III – SCRIPTURE MARK 6:30-44:

In the New Testament we find a parallel story to the one in Exodus where God again provides meat and bread to the hungry masses of Israelites. It is the only story, which is found in all four Gospels. Listen this morning to the story we call “THE FEEDING OF THE 5000” from Mark:

Mark 6:30 – 44 (NLT)

³⁰The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had done and taught. ³¹Then Jesus said, “**Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.**” He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat. ³²So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. ³³But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. ³⁴Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them because they

were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. ³⁵Late in the afternoon his disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. ³⁶Send the crowds away so they can go to the nearby farms and villages and buy something to eat.” ³⁷But Jesus said, **“You feed them.”** “With what?” they asked. “We’d have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!” ³⁸**“How much bread do you have?”** he asked. **“Go and find out.”** They came back and reported, “We have five loaves of bread and two fish.” ³⁹Then Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups of fifty or a hundred. ⁴¹Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. He also divided the fish for everyone to share. ⁴²They all ate as much as they wanted, ⁴³and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. ⁴⁴A total of 5,000 men and their families were fed from those loaves!

Jesus sees that his disciples are tired from their ministry tour and decides they need some time away to recharge their batteries. They get in a boat and start for a quieter spot, but the people run around the shoreline and end up gathering there before Jesus and the disciples arrive. Just as God heard the cries of his people in Egypt and delivered them from slavery, Jesus has compassion on his people and even though bone tired he sits with them and teaches them.

As the ancient Israelites were in the wilderness without food, so now we read that the new generation of Israelites gathered around Jesus are in a “desolate” place, a wilderness, and they too are without food. Jesus sends the disciples out to see what’s available and they come back with five loaves of bread, and 2 fish. How could you feed a crowd of over 5,000 (only the men were counted – there were women & children there too) with this meager supply? Just as God fed his people through the miracle of meat and bread from heaven, Jesus feeds the people meat and bread by the miracle of multiplying the 5 loaves and two fish.

But wait, there’s a little difference in this story than the one in Exodus. The people of Exodus cried to have their stomachs fed and God gave them food in such a manner that they would depend on him, recognize him, worship him, and have their soul’s fed too. In the story from Mark the people first came to have their soul nourished by the teachings of Jesus, and then Jesus fed their stomachs.

One other difference, the food God gave the Old Testament Israelites didn’t last; they had just what they needed, no more, no less. In the New Testament story we see that when Jesus got done there was nourishment left over. The breadbasket was overflowing with more than they had started with when they got done.

But that's the promise when we get our soul fed by Jesus. In John 6:35 ...

“Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry again...”

PAUSE HERE TO HAVE COMMUNION SERVED THEN COME BACK TO THE MESSAGE

IV – OUR DAILY BREAD:

God wants us to worship him and think about him each and every day of our lives. He loved us so much, wanted this so much, that he sent his one and only Son to be a sacrifice for our sins so we could one day think of him for eternity. Until then Jesus invites us to sit in the grass of life and listen to his teachings so our souls will be satisfied. One of those teachings was about a prayer with a line which says “GIVE US THIS DAY, OUR DAILY BREAD” this is to remind us that each and every day is a gift from God. That each and every day we are to seek him and depend on our physical and spiritual nourishment to be delivered for the day. He wants this to be a daily activity, not a weekly, or a monthly, or a Christmas and Easter only activity. We are to feed on the bread of heaven all the time. To have our souls and spirits nourished as well as our stomachs.

V – HOW'S YOUR BREAD BOX?:

So, my question for you this morning is how's your breadbox? Is it full? If it's full, will it be empty tomorrow because you'll only get bread today?

Try something different this week. Instead of only saying the Lord's Prayer before you go to sleep at night, try starting your day with it. As you pray the line “GIVE US THIS DAY, OUR DAILY BREAD” realize that you are asking the God of heaven, the Creator of the universe, your Lord and Savior to watch over you the entire day, to meet your physical needs, and to meet your spiritual needs for the entire day. Help God provide you nourishment by reading your Bible, praying, and thinking about him throughout the day. Repeat it each and every morning with this understanding and see if you aren't a little fatter, at least in your spirit, by the end of the week.

Finally, when you realize you're full and you have food left over, make sure to share it with your friends, family, and neighbors. Remember it's OUR bread.

AMEN