

Fresh Bread

Introduction: Story Exodus 16. Bread from heaven.

read **Matthew 6:5-15**, lead in prayer, review context

“daily” word only used twice in NT and both in Lord’s Prayer

“Grant us *daily* our *daily* ration of life’s necessities.” -Boice p. 191

In other words, all we are to ask for is necessary/sufficient, for each day.

To ask for *daily* bread, means to live in the acknowledgement of depending on God. Of course, God expects us to save, plan, & prepare. Yet we are to consistently acknowledge our dependence on God’s gracious provision, and do so with an attitude of thanksgiving.

We are to pray about our daily needs. God urges us to ask regularly and repeatedly.

“bread” *Daily bread* means more than just bread. It means daily food, and daily provision.

It is a prayer for food and clothing, a home, a good job, and many other physical needs” Boice 190 think: daily work, daily plans, daily opportunities, etc. *daily bread is inclusive of all our material needs, everything that is necessary for your life in this world.

Praying for God’s will to be done is one way of asking that my idea of necessities line up with God’s.

It is astonishing that God cares about something as *trivial* as our provision. Billions of people, catastrophes, etc. and he cares about our daily bread. The Father is concerned about your basic, daily needs. This is an invitation to bring your details to God.

Illustration of David, in review of God’s provision over a lifetime, said: “I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread” (Psalm 37:25).

Most Americans know little of extreme poverty in this land of abundance. *see stats from blog

Praying for daily bread is a protection against pride, and ungratefulness, and worry. Acknowledging that everything comes from God is a heart guard. A soul/spirit sentinel.

Do you give thanks before meal? Doing so is a testimony of gratefulness of God’s provision.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17).

➤ **Daily Bread and Contentment**

Daily acknowledging dependence on God

A familiar verse: “I can do all things through him who strengthens me” Philippians 4:13

But few can readily tell the context:

“Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need” (Philippians 4:11-12).

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

“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” (Proverbs 30:8-9). =the balance of contentment

Illustration of fresh bread French and daily baguette. God doesn’t want you to be satisfied with stale bread. His mercies are new every morning.

➤ **Daily Bread and Personal Responsibility**

The preparation of bread takes work. Preparation of soil, planting, harvesting etc. Then cooking, slicing, etc. In the same way you can’t neglect your responsibility, sit on the couch and expect God to give.

“But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Timothy 5:8).

“For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat” (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

Applies to outreach and discipleship also. Hey God, bring us some fresh people, increase our income, begin some new ministries, and I’ll sit here waiting for you to provide. Do you long to see God’s daily, miraculous provision? Get busy preparing the soil and sowing seed

➤ **Daily Bread and Time in the Father’s Kitchen** Prayer celebrates relationship

*Note your name, your kingdom, your will be done. This, the model prayer teaches us to you focus on the glory of God before your need.

-Seeking God’s Face is of greater value than only seeking his hand.

-God cares about having food in your stomach, but he cares more about a bounty for your soul.

Your interests and needs are important to God, but be careful to mind the priority. (thus, Mt. 6:33).

Illustration of eating in French restaurant or eating at French home. You don’t eat then leave. You are committed for the evening. Some treat God as if they rush in, order and rush out. Fast food. “Father” you are eating at home, with family. You don’t order, eat and then leave.

“The kitchen in God’s house is no restaurant. It’s not owned by a stranger, it’s run by your Father. It’s not a place you visit and leave; it’s a place to linger and chat.” -Max Lucado

Illustration Story of *our* cat overseas. Affection was fraudulent. Friendly only when needing something. Cat would wake me up demanding to be fed, then watch me as it ate. As soon as it finished, it was out the door. Meow translated is world revolves around me. You are here to do my bidding. Here is what I want when I want it. How often are our prayers nothing but meow. The Lord is concerned about your daily needs, but this provision happens within relationship. Quality time together around the table.

Conclusion/Challenge: Story Deuteronomy 8 (especially verses 11-18) about danger of forgetting that God is behind your every provision and ability.

An invitation issued to a church:

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

Why told to ask for bread? "We do not tell God these things because He is not aware of them. No, we must think of prayer more as a relationship between father and child; and the value of prayer is that it keeps us in touch and contact with God...God likes us to come to Him...He likes to hear from us " DMLJ