The Life of Jesus (27)

The Lord's Prayer (5)

Matthew 6:9-11

#1 Give Us Today Our Daily Bread

Despite its importance, it's easy for us to overlook the importance of this prayer for a couple of reasons.

First of all, some Christians may tend to think that this kind of prayer is not spiritual and therefore they don't think it really matters.

Second, we don't really feel the need to ask for our daily bread because we don't really have a lack of food in our lives. So, we may not really feel the need to pray for our daily food.

However, we still need to continue to ask God to give us daily food in order to live as God's people.

#2 Manna

In fact, bread was a powerful symbol of God's provision for his people in the Old Testament.

Life in the wilderness was hard, and soon the Israelites began to complain that it would be better to go back to Egypt, where they had many kinds of food to eat.

In response to these complaints, God promised to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you." (Ex 16:4)

But there was a condition. God continued,

"The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day" (Ex 16:4)

The condition was that the people had to gather only enough food for each day. If they gathered more than they needed for that day and saved the rest until the next day, it would be rotten and start to smell.

While wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, God sent them manna everyday so that the Israelites could survive there without planting and harvesting. It means that the people's survival was solely dependent on God's provision.

#3 Manna

We can find the reason God set the specific rule about manna in Deuteronomy 8:3

"He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna... to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." (Dt 8:3)

What God really wanted them to learn by letting them go out to gather manna every single day was the fact that what really made it possible to maintain their lives was God's provision.

Even though God stopped giving them manna after they entered the promised land , the story of manna is still very important in Christian life.

We're very vulnerable to temptation to think that what sustains our lives is our power, possessions, and abilities. But, what Scriptures clearly teach us is that the true reason we can maintain our lives is because God sustains our lives every single day, gives us power to live, and provides us with all the things we need for our lives.

#4 Spiritual Food

This prayer teaches us how to live spiritually as well.

The most important thing for our physical survival is food. In the same way, the most important thing for every believer to be healthy and grow spiritually is to eat spiritual food—God's word.

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation" (1 Pt 2:2)

God's primary concern for us is that we live and grow by eating the word of God as our food.

"I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever." (Jn 6:48-51)

Jesus said that the purpose of him coming into the world was to give us this bread so that we can eat it and live forever. The reason only Jesus is the living bread is because we can be connected to God, the only source of eternal life, through him.

Memory Verses

"He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna... to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." (Dt 8:3) (1)

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation" (1 Pt 2:2) (1)

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