

Day Eight

"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 'Give us this day our daily bread. 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.' -Matthew 6:9-13

Give us this day our daily bread

It has been said that every day is a gift, that is why it is called the 'present'. Why must it be that we treat this day with disdain? We are fretting about tomorrow and regretting yesterday. Yet, it is today that we live in.

Our verse for today is one that encapsulates in its brevity the idea of contentment. It does not tell us to store up for tomorrow that which we will need. It does not speak of the dainty delights of lavish living, but that of simple sustenance. Further down in this passage of Matthew, Jesus will deliver one of the greatest commentaries on the human condition that has ever been spoken. It is the human condition of worry and want. He will rest our fears by telling us about trust.

"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life? -Matthew 6:25-27

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. -Matthew 6:33-34

Living each day with a complete and total dependence upon God in His providential care. What better illustration can be used than that of the Israelites as they left Egypt on their journey to the Promised Land? God provided manna from heaven.

Each morning they were given enough for that day only. On the sixth day they were given enough for the Sabbath as well that they should not venture out on the day of rest. Yet, they grumbled! Is that our trait as well? Has our eye looked upon our daily bread with envy for more?

Our daily bread is about trust. It is about the sustenance of God and daily seeking His ration in our lives.

In the wilderness as Jesus went forty days without food the devil sought to pierce His defenses with the weakness of hunger when he tempted Him to turn rocks to bread. Yet, Jesus knew who sustained Him. *But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"* -Matthew 4:4

Elijah himself would venture out on a journey that would take him far. He would need the care of the Lord for this journey. *Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you." -1 Kings 19:6-7*

God knows the journey here is too great for us to make on our own. He gives us our daily bread that we might have our needs met and then some. Consider what the Psalmist David said: *I have been young, and now I am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Or his descendants begging bread. -Psalms 37:25.*

Agur gives sage words to heed in the thirtieth chapter of Proverbs: *Two things I asked of Thee, Do not refuse me before I die: Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, Lest I be full and deny Thee and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God. -Proverbs 30:7-9.* We will do well to seek that which is sufficient for the day.

Prayerful Thoughts: Our Father, feed us from Thy bounty and may we be truly thankful for what You provide.