



EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 16:13-36

13 In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. **14** And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. **15** When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. **16** This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.'" **17** And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. **18** But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. **19** And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over till the morning." **20** But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. **21** Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

22 On the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers each. And when all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, **23** he said to them, "This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord; bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over lay aside to be kept till the morning.'" **24** So they laid it aside till the morning, as Moses commanded them, and it did not stink, and there were no worms in it. **25** Moses said, "Eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field. **26** Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is a Sabbath, there will be none."



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27 On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. **28** And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws? **29** See! The Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Remain each of you in his place; let no one go out of his place on the seventh day." **30** So the people rested on the seventh day.

31 Now the house of Israel called its name manna. It was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. **32** Moses said, "This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Let an omer of it be kept throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'" **33** And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar, and put an omer of manna in it, and place it before the Lord to be kept throughout your generations." **34** As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the testimony to be kept. **35** The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan. **36** (An omer is the tenth part of an ephah.)

DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 16:13-36

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My mother enjoyed telling the story of the time she carried me to the pediatrician concerned that I had hearing loss. As it turned out, I wasn't going deaf. The doctor told my mother that I didn't have a hearing problem, but I did have a listening problem.

The Children of Israel had the same issue. We see in verse 19 that they were told by God to gather just enough manna for the needs of that day, but some of them got more than necessary. They didn't trust that God would provide for their needs. Then verse 20 points out that their leftovers got wormy and stinky. Others attempted to



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collect manna on the Sabbath but, there was none to be found! We have all looked to meet our needs in the wrong place and at the wrong time.

The Hebrew definition of manna is literally "What is it?" For the Israelites, manna was physical food but it also represents any supernatural provision. That's just like God to provide in a way that confounds even the wise (I Corinthians 1:27). He loves to reward when we listen and follow his directions.

Listening and following the rules isn't always what we want to do, but we have to realize that God places boundaries in life for our protection not to put limitations on us. Future generations are looking to us for an example of how to follow God's lead. Just look at verse 33 for proof. Those rules are positive protections. Most parents want their children to be more successful than they are, and I certainly hope that is true for their spiritual walk. Consider the representation of manna we leave our children and children's children. Leaving a legacy is so much more than money or property. You can't put a price on a spiritual inheritance.

Questions:

1. Are you listening to God or just hearing Him?
2. What do you have trouble trusting God to provide for you?
3. Are you willing to pray for God to provide you with the ability to trust Him?
4. What is one thing you can do today to have a positive impact on future generations?