

LEARNING TO TRUST

Tuesday, February 24

Reading: Exodus 16

Exodus 16:15 *Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.*

When the Jewish crowd Jesus spoke to heard “daily bread” their minds would immediately have been transported back to the ancient story of Moses and their ancestors in the wilderness.

Only a few weeks after God had delivered them from slavery in Egypt, they began to complain. In Egypt, though they were slaves, they had never been hungry. They remembered the “pots of meat” and all the “free food” they had in Egypt and grumbled about starving in the wilderness.

In response, God gave them manna – the bread of heaven. But there were some rules to God’s provision. They were only to collect as much as they needed for each day. If they collected more to save for later, it would spoil by the next morning. On Friday, the Lord told them to gather enough for two days as there was to be no work on the Sabbath day. God gave them manna every day without fail throughout their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.

Why did God provide for His people in this way? Because He was teaching them to TRUST HIM! They had to depend on God to send the manna every morning to provide their “daily bread.” He wanted them to remember Who it was that was taking care of them. Much later, when the Israelites were about the entire the Promised Land, God reminded them of His provision of manna and warned them not to forget that HE was their Provider.

He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms His covenant, which He swore to your ancestors, as it is today (Deuteronomy 8:16-18)

Like the Israelites, we can easily forget that God is the Source of everything. He is the One who gives us our daily bread. God wants us to trust Him for our needs every day. This implies that we pray every day – that we trust God every day to provide.

The Psalms are full of commands to “give thanks” to God. The New Testament picks up this theme of thanksgiving as well.

Ephesians 5:19-20 Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.