

## BREAD OF LIFE

I'd like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures with you.

Look at Exodus chapter 16.

You can read the whole chapter but I'll just summarize it.

The Israelites were 45 days out of Egypt and began to grumble against the Lord and against Moses and Aaron. They said, we wish we had died in Egypt and they longed for the fleshpots of Egypt. They felt that the bondage of the flesh was better than freedom with God.

God got a bit upset with them, but He said I will rain bread from heaven for you tomorrow.

He told them that everyone had to go out morning and evening and gather this mana for themselves.

He told them not to go gather up a big portion of it and store it, or it would rot and create worms.

Now that's the gist of what happened and what God said.

They weren't to gather a large bag of the stuff and then try to live off of it for a while.

He wanted a daily ongoing relationship with Him.

Modern Christianity seems to think there are 7 or 12 or 26 truths that are essential to becoming a strong Christian. They continually teach them to people thinking that if you just learn these basic things you'll be an effective, powerful Christian.

I've been a Christian for 58 years now and it seems that all this academic teaching produces are people who know some Bible truths. It doesn't cause them to know Him. Knowing Him requires the ministry of the Holy Spirit to give us revelation.

God is after a daily relationship with Him, not a compilation of Bible truths.

God's not looking for Bible scholars. He wants sons who know Him, who love like He does, who speak like He does, and who manifest the same life that He has.

I'd like to share a few things that He did NOT say in this scripture.

He did not ask the people what style they wanted their mana served up in. Whether they preferred traditional, contemporary, or a blend of both.

God is more concerned with the content than the packaging.

He also did not tell Moses to gather it and serve it up to them. He didn't tell Moses to set up a big tent in the middle of the camp, make it really fancy and set up a buffet line of Mana to feed the people every Sunday.

The gospel program is that everyone is to gather and eat. Then share it with others who will do the same.

God did not tell Moses to spice it up with a lot of leeks and garlic just like the fleshpots of Egypt. Or tell him to give the people a lot of variety so that they would really enjoy coming to eat it.

It's the spirit that gives life. Adding flesh to it profits absolutely nothing.

He didn't tell the people not to worry about going out and gathering mana every day, because He just preferred that they would show up on Sunday morning and get their minimum weekly requirement. He would make sure that Moses did all the preparation and serve it up to them on Sunday morning, if they weren't too busy to attend.

The gospel was set up so that everyone would have their own relationship with God, and not hitchhike on other people's faith.

He also did not say, why don't you have people divided up into 2800 different groups. Then set up pop-up tents like they do at food festivals. Then they could all serve up their own version of Mana and the people could pick and choose the one they like the best.

I read some time ago that the Barna Institute stated that there were 2800 different Christian denominations.

So God is not providing His word to meet people's carnal needs, to offer them a appealing variety, or to accommodate people's preferences so they will like it.

He is serving up His life and He wants people to gather it themselves every day, eat it, swallow it, allow it to transform them, then live it everyday.

So why did God set it up this way?

Let's look at the scriptures. Read Deuteronomy chapter 8.

I'll just highlight a few verses.

Verse 2 says

You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. And He humbled you and let you be hungry, fed you with Mana that you did not know, nor did your father's know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that precedes out of the mouth of the Lord.

For 40 years God only wanted to teach them one thing. Not two things or even ten things just one thing. You live by every word that I speak.

Proverbs 4:20-22

My son, give attention to my words, incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight, keep them in the midst of your heart, for they are life to those who find them and health to their whole body.

Verse five says,

You are to know in your heart that the Lord your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son....

Hebrews 12.12 amp

For the time being no discipline seems joyful, but seems grievous and painful, but afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it (a harvest of fruit which consists in righteousness - in conformity to God's will in purpose, in thought, and action, resulting in right living and right standing with God).

Verse 16,

In the wilderness He fed you Mana which your father's did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.

God set up a very simple program. What I say is life. When you receive My word, you receive My life, then you can trust Me, and we can walk together in an internal covenant relationship.

Many will say, but I do trust the Lord. I would ask the question, trust him with what? Do you trust Him for everything? Or do you handle most everything on your own, and then occasionally pray for His help?

God is saying, I have eternal life. You don't have any in your flesh. I am the life that you need. If you want eternal life you'll have to get it from me.

Jesus told the Pharisees, you search the scriptures thinking that in them you have eternal life, but you won't come to me that you can actually have the life.

Eternal life doesn't come from church activity. It comes from knowing by relationship, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent to us. John 17.3

It's a very simple program. It has no frills, no fluff, and no flash.

It's receiving God's Living Word, by relationship with Him, through His Holy Spirit, everyday.

God says, I AM the life. You need Me badly. I'm here everyday to give it to you. Help yourself. You can have all you want!

Read Deuteronomy chapter 31.

I'll just summarize the chapter for you.

Moses was passing the baton of leadership to Joshua.

God told Moses that the people would forsake Him and break his covenant when they entered the Promised Land.

God told Moses to write a song, so that when the children of Israel ended up in bondage they would sing this song and be convicted of their forsaking God's covenant.

It is sometimes amazing to think that the children of Israel saw the miracle deliverance of God from Egypt and still broke His Covenant when they entered the Promised Land.

God's deliverance of His people from Egypt was truly miraculous. One day they put the blood on the doorpost and the death angel passes by. The very next day all of Egypt is asking them to please leave our country and take all of our gold with you. God is the only one who can orchestrate a deliverance quite like that.

Considered this though, they didn't get out of Egypt because they wanted God. They got out of Egypt because God wanted them.

After their miraculous deliverance from Egypt, God immediately led them in the wilderness to test their hearts. He was trying to get them on the same page with Him.

God needed to get them walking in relationship with him and trusting Him. He wanted them to realize that when it comes to life - it all comes from God through His word.

This was not strictly a wilderness lesson. Look at Deuteronomy chapter 11.

In verses 10 through 15, God told them that in Egypt, if it didn't rain they could use foot pumps to irrigate their crops from the Nile. In the promised land this would not work.

In the promised land, because it was full of hills and valleys, they would have to obey God's covenant and trust Him to bring rain.

Moses told them to impress these words on their hearts, teach them to their kids, talk about them all the time. When they came in and when they went out, when they rose up and when they lied down.

God's plan has always been an all-encompassing relationship with

Him. It was never about acquiring stuff or changing our address from Egypt to Canaan. It wasn't about going from the brick pits to owning your own home either.

God says, it's all about Me. It's always been about Me. The greatest blessing I can give you is oneness with me.

Let's take a look at John 6.26-36.

The Jews said, Moses gave us bread from Heaven. What miracle do you do that we can believe in you. Jesus said the bread of God is that which comes from heaven and gives life. I am the bread of life.

The Jews began to grumble about Him. Jesus said unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you have no life within yourself.

The people said this is a difficult statement who can receive it. Most of the people who were following him left at that point.

Jesus defied the number one rule of modern ministry, give the people what they want.

Jesus was not on the earth to meet the peoples' expectations and wants. He walked by lots of needs every day to do the Father's will.

One example was the woman at the well. He walked by many needs to get all the way to Samaria to talk with her.

Jesus said in the last days it would be just like in the days of Noah. People would be marrying, making plans and trying to make them happen. God says my plan will happen regardless of any circumstances.

I want the whole world to have this life giving relationship with me for eternity.

It's really simple. There is only one way. It's My way.

This is not some kind of a toss-up question between 16 different options.

There are really only two choices.

Do what seems right to man which only leads to death.

Or

Receive God's word and have an ongoing relationship with Him by the Holy Spirit.

It's like Moses said, I've set before you life and death - choose life.

With the Holy Spirit's revelation the choice between life and death becomes very clear and quite simple.

Look at 2 Corinthians 3.14. It was speaking of the Jews.

Their minds were hardened, for until this very day at the reading of the old Covenant the veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.

Verse 17 says,

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty. But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

God is asking us to swallow this life giving bread ourselves. If we don't receive it from Him we won't have any to give to the rest of this world.

In John chapter 7 Jesus said,

If anyone is thirsty let him come unto me and drink and out of his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.

Let's look at Hebrews 4.12.

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

God's word cuts between our natural plans and God's eternal plan. God doesn't want to get involved with our natural temporary plans.

This Living Word shows us that we are bringing nothing to the table. He doesn't want to help us fulfill our own self made plans. God wants to give us His eternal plan to walk with Him, and receive His life daily.

He wants us to be so filled with His life that rivers of Living Water can flow out of us to bless every nation on this planet. This is what we were created for.

Most of us get so caught up with the circumstances of life in this world, that we often miss the calling that we have been given to fulfill.

God's word in our life often gets choked out by the weeds of this world just like in Jesus' parable.

Jesus's parable about the woman who put leaven in three measures of meal, shows us that the kingdom of God is a total takeover of our carnal lives.

Today's modern religion declares that praying the sinner's prayer to go to heaven is mandatory, but laying down our lives in exchange for His eternal life has somehow become optional. It may be important for prophets and pastors but for the average church member, not so much.

Colossians 2.6

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him....

Galatians 5:25

If we live by the spirit, let us also walk by the spirit.

I heard a quote quite a long time ago that was attributed to Socrates, when he was asked how do you get to Mount Olympus?

He responded, just make sure every step you take is in that direction.

As God's children, we need to hear God's voice and make sure that every step we take is towards Him and His kingdom.

In Matthew 6.33 Jesus instructed us to,

Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all things will be added unto you.

God is not holding anything back from us.

In Romans 8:32 amp it says,

He who did not withhold or spare even His own son, but gave Him up for us all, will He not also with Him freely and graciously give us all things.

God's Holy Spirit is serving up His eternal life on a platter everyday. We can eat our fill by faith everyday.

Go ahead and help yourself.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller