

Cheltenham  
Ps Rob Buckingham  
4 & 5 March 2017

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER (5)**

### **THE BREAD THAT DOESN'T RUN OUT**

#### **Message Notes**

*"Give us today our daily bread"*

Text: John 6:30-35, 41-43, 48-51

*They asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? **31** Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"*

***32** Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. **33** For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."*

***34** "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." **35** Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."*

***41** At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." **42** They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven?'" **43** "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered.*

***48** I am the bread of life. **49** Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. **50** But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. **51** I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."*

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## **1. What does "bread" symbolise in Scripture?**

The Hebrews had two types of bread...

### **1. Show Bread** – Hallowed bread or "Bread of the Presence"

(Cf. Numbers 4:7; 1 Samuel 21:6; 1 Corinthians 11:26)

Baked the day before the Sabbath and placed on the table in the Temple (12 loaves for the priests to eat together)

The bread and the table are pictures of God's willingness to fellowship and communion with people (literally, sharing something in common; common union)

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Eating together is an act of friendship and fellowship...

Every major event after the crucifixion happened at a meal...

- Jesus proved He was really risen by eating food
  - Jesus restored Peter and the disciples at a meal
  - Jesus gave the great commission at a meal
  - Jesus promised the Holy Spirit at a meal
  - The first church did life together over food
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And then right at the end of the New Testament we find this gem as Jesus says to His church...

*"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."  
(Revelations 3:20)*

The second type of bread mentioned in Scripture is...

## 2. Daily Bread – Manna

*Numbers 11:4b-9, "The Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost — also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna! The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin. The people went around gathering it, and then ground it in a hand mill or crushed it in a mortar. They cooked it in a pot or made it into loaves. And it tasted like something made with olive oil. When the dew settled on the camp at night, the manna also came down."*

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This processing of Manna is very important when you understand what Manna symbolises...

*Deuteronomy 8:3, "He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."*

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John 6:49-51, "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. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

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## **2. What did Jesus mean by "daily bread?"**

*"Give us today our daily bread"*

There's been a lot of discussion over the years about this because the Greek word translated "daily" (epiousios) is only found in this one verse in the Bible and is not found anywhere else in any Greek literature.

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So, what does the Greek word, epiousios ("daily") mean? Is *"Give us today our daily bread"* the best translation of those Greek words?

The Old Syriac translation of The Lord's Prayer gives us the answer: *"Amen bread today give us."* (Ameno = lasting, never-ending, perpetual). So a better way to translate this part of The Lord's Prayer would be, *"Give us today the bread that doesn't run out"* ~ just like the Manna in the wilderness!

Jesus is instructing us to pray about one of the basic & most crippling human fears, that of running out or not having enough. We all have thoughts & questions like this:

Will we have enough?  
What if I lose my job?  
What if I'm unable to work?  
How will we survive?  
What if we can't pay the mortgage / the rent  
What if the kids get sick?  
What if, what if what if...

In the Lord's Prayer Jesus teaches us to pray for release from these fears...

*"Give us today the bread that doesn't run out"*

That is enough for today, enough for tomorrow, and enough to help relieve the needs of others...

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