

“Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread”

Tucked significantly in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount, the model prayer provides much food for spiritual thought. Consider **Matthew 6:11**. What would stand brilliantly as an area of dependence upon God in the first century, at first glance, might appear less relevant in the affluence of 21st century America.

One lesson is that we should not take for granted the abundant material blessings we enjoy. The fact that food is so readily available, affordable and our pantries fully stocked must not lull us into complacency or a sense of self-sufficiency. Our abundance, a multitude of material blessings, is a reason for great gratitude.

A second lesson, and equally applicable, is uncovered when you consider a later statement in the Sermon. “Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:34). While food may well be abundant, this does not constitute the totality of our need for any given day. Challenges confront. Difficulties discourage. Situations unfold that wear on us. Often, in these simple daily trials, we fail to see how much we need fellowship with God and His “very present help” (Psalm 46:1).

A life-threatening situation? Persecution as a result of one’s faith? Not usually. Life survival is rarely the issue, but faith survival is, the day to day situations that require strength, courage, resolve, patience and perseverance. Temptation to lose self-control, to forfeit Christ-likeness in the midst of these challenges should pose a significant concern and thus compel trust.

Ask God for “daily bread”—the strength and help from above to face your daily circumstances successfully as His child. For the stay-at-home mom, it could well involve strength and wisdom for the challenge of managing young children. For the employee or the student, it will be the need for discipline, diligence, honesty, love and kindness in a sometimes challenging environment. Each morning’s request is a supplication for sufficient “food” to meet trial with endurance and temptation with victory!

Days rarely come off exactly the way we scripted them in our minds. How do you prepare for what you had no way of knowing would occur? You ask God for “daily bread” to face with faith whatever it is that today brings. Tomorrow is always a day away, but today I need a relationship with Him and His promised assistance.

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