

Heavenly Bread

Exodus 16:1 – 8

I. Intro

- A. Continued study of Exodus
- B. Seen so far: God's judgment poured out upon the enemies of God's people – the Egyptians who've held Israelites in captivity for 400+ years; judgment in the form of 10 plagues
- C. However, God provides a deliverer for His people – Moses
- D. God's grace and mercy poured out on His people – choosing them to be set apart, holy, consecrated before Him; also, God has provided for His people even in the midst of their grumbling and dissatisfaction
- E. Today, see that the Israelites claim they would have rather died in Egypt than be freed and taking possession of Promised Land the Lord is leading them to with His blessings and prosperity
- F. **Question:** Is it ever ok to bring our complaints and frustrations to the Lord? Yes – as long as those complaints and frustrations aren't accompanied with doubting God's sovereignty and power
- G. **READ Exodus 16:1 - 8**
- H. People (all human beings) are going to gripe and complain (part of our sin nature); certainly been a lot of griping and complaining over last 5 months – Covid, unrest and rioting
- I. All proof that there is a thirst and hunger in people all over this country – not a literal physical hunger/thirst, it's worse famine – spiritual hunger/thirst; greatest crisis in our country today is a spiritual famine
- J. **Question:** How is this spiritual famine satisfied?

II. 1 – Not by Trusting in Earthly Leadership

- A. **REFER v. 2, 3**
- B. (**v. 1**) Told Israelites left Elim, come to place called Wilderness of Sin (Zin); this name has nothing to do with actual "sin" but see in this place actual "sin" in the heart of God's people
- C. People been in desert wilderness about a month now; headed towards Sinai, a place where they will meet God and receive His law
- D. People again, grumbling and complaining (last week, complaining because no water) – this time, no food (really, running out of food, or not enough food they desire); complaining more out of anticipation than experience
- E. **Illustration:** Facing circumstances where we feel we're about to go without something; our fear of being without become stronger than our

faith in God – worry, anxiety, complaining, blame someone else (government, employers, family, church or God, etc.)

- F. **Talked last week about facing dry, barren times in our lives; in those times where we must closely examine whether our lacking is more of spiritual nature than physical**
 - G. **Israelites were more focused on past – they were convinced their life was better in Egypt – twisting their recollection of past to support their complaints, instead of focusing on the future God had planned for them**
 - H. **People were convinced Moses and Aaron’s leadership would result in their death – again, had to find someone to blame for their situation**
 - I. **Where God’s people were wrong - Moses and Aaron, God’s chosen leaders, but people of Israel putting their sole trust in them, God’s leaders, instead of trusting God Himself**
 - J. **Not uncommon in Christians (churches) today, putting their sole trust in leaders – even those that may have legitimately been called by God – instead of trusting God alone; trust God first, then trust that God’s leaders are also trusting Him**
 - K. **Spiritual famine will not ever be satisfied by trusting in earthly leadership**
- III. **2 – Trust in Jehovah-Jireh (Yireh)**
- A. **Meaning of the name – the Lord provides; first used in Genesis 22, when Abraham called upon to sacrifice his son Isaac – just before sacrifice was made the *angel of the Lord* stop him – and the Lord provided a ram for the sacrifice**
 - B. **(v. 4 – 7) Instructions for gathering “bread”, or manna (v. 31)**
 - i. **People were to gather daily supply of meat/manna for 5 days, but on 6th day gather two days worth - 7th day, God says, is to be a day of Sabbath (rest), day to spend totally focused on Him, not plans for the next week, not work to make sure your bills/needs are going to be met (REFER v. 27 – 29)**
 - C. **Question: Why is it we feel many times that all our work accomplishes little or nothing – times where nothing to show for all our labors? Simple answer – Sunday is no longer a day of Sabbath**
 - i. **After creation: Genesis 2:2 (ESV)**
2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and **he rested** ...; *rested* – (Heb.) *shabat* or Sabbath
 - ii. **Genesis 2:3 (ESV)**
3 So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, - **God set apart that seventh day (Sabbath) as a holy day**
 - iii. **God soon makes this an official commandment, part of the law: Exodus 20:8-10 (ESV)**

- 8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,
10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. ...

iv. **Command, not to make us work harder the other 6 days of the week, but for our spiritual & physical health and well-being; we all need at least one day a week where all our attention, all our focus, is on our Lord God - trusting in Jehovah-jireh**

D. **The words of Jesus in scripture about Jehovah-Jireh – God still providing for people today**

i. **John 6:41, 47 - 51 (ESV)**

41 ... “**I am the bread that came down from heaven.**”

47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

48 **I am the bread of life.**

49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

50 This is **the bread that comes down from heaven**, so that **one may eat of it and not die.**

51 **I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.** And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

E. **Leads to final point – how spiritual famine experienced today can be satisfied**

IV. **3 – Feed On, and Trust In, God’s Promises (Word)**

A. **(v. 8) Moses tells the people to remember when they’re eating quail (meat) and manna that the Lord Himself has provided for them (Jehovah-Jireh) - ... that the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against Him, Moses repeats their grumbling hasn’t been against himself and Aaron, but against the Lord**

B. **REFER v. 13 – 15**

C. **Jesus words continued:**

i. **John 6:57-58 (ESV)**

57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever **feeds on me**, he also will live because of me.

58 This is **the bread that came down from heaven**, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. **Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.**”

D. **Before Jesus officially began His ministry on earth – tempted in the wilderness 40 days/nights by Satan; Satan tries to get Jesus to turn stones into bread – Jesus’ words**

i. **Matthew 4:4 (ESV)**

4 ... “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word** that comes from the mouth of God.””

ii. **Jesus quotes scripture – Pentatuch (Deuteronomy): Deuteronomy 8:2-3 (ESV)**

2 And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.

3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every **word** that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

iii. **John 1:1 (ESV)**

1 In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word** was God.

iv. **1 John 1:1-2 (ESV)**

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning **the word of life**—

2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—

V. Close

A. **Question:** How is this spiritual famine experienced today in our nation, even in our churches, among people of God, satisfied?

- i. **1 - Never be satisfied by putting our trust in and depending on earthly leadership**
- ii. **2 - Must trust only in Jehovah-Jireh – the Almighty Provider**
- iii. **3 - Must daily feed on God’s Word, trust in God’s Word, obey God’s Word**

B. **Matthew 4:4 (ESV)**

4 ... “It is written, “Man [*can*] not live by bread alone, (**satisfying physical cravings makes no difference in regards to eternity**) but by **every** word that comes from the mouth of God.”” (**our feeding on and following God’s living and written word makes all the difference when it comes to eternity**)