

"The Sending of the Manna"

Part 2

Exodus 16

Introduction: Last week in our study of the life of Moses we looked into Exodus 16 where Israel faced another crisis which was a food crisis. They needed food and they had no way to produce any. Instead of seeking God as they were faced with this crisis they began to murmur and complain.

Notice Exodus 16:1-3

Let us remember that God had proved His care for them many times before this. He kept them through the plagues, He saved them at the Red Sea and destroyed their enemies, He turned the bitter waters sweet at Marah so they would have the water they needed, and He led them to the oasis at Elim where they stayed for several weeks to be refreshed. With all of these displays of God's care in the past there should never have been any complaining or murmuring.

As we move on tonight, we are going to be privileged to see the giving of the manna to the people of Israel. There are several ways in which we could study this chapter. The manna can be seen as a type of the Word of God. The manna can be seen as a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. We shall see a little of each of these in our study, but our main focus tonight will be on God's provision for His people.

"The Provision of the Manna"

Exodus 16

1. The manna was given by grace.

After the murmuring and complaining of Israel and after they claimed it would have been better to die in Egypt, we would expect that God would rain down judgment. This is however not what happened.

Notice Exodus 16:4

Instead of judgment God would give to them the bread from heaven. This is not what they deserved. They deserved judgment but God was dealing with them in a judicial relationship, but He was dealing with them by grace and grace is unmerited favor. For this reason, God would give to them manna and not the fires of His judgment.

Application:

We also need to be reminded that we are in a "GRACE RELATIONSHIP" with our Lord. He loves us by choice, and He has promised to meet our needs by grace. This means that we can never do anything to make God love us less and we can never do anything to hinder God's care for us. Now, there would be someone who would desire to resist this last statement by saying that if we get outside the will of God, He will discipline us. I agree that He will discipline us if we get involved in sin but even His discipline is in love.

Hebrews 12:6-11

⁶ For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

⁷ If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

⁸ But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

⁹ Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

¹⁰ For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

¹¹ Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

The chastening of the Lord upon our lives takes place because He loves us and it is not "punishment" for our sin, but it is correction to get us back into fellowship.

Our relationship with God is not judicial but it is a grace relationship. In other words, God does not say do this or that and I will greatly bless you. God greatly blesses us out of grace even when we fall short of walking in His will. The reason is because we are in a grace relationship with our Lord.

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

It is out of God unending grace that He will always meet our needs.

Romans 8:31-32

³¹ *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

³² *He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*

Matthew 7:7-11

⁷ *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:*

⁸ *For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

⁹ *Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?*

¹⁰ *Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?*

¹¹ *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*

So, lets assume you fell into sin last evening and now you are concerned that you are outside of the realm of God's blessings. That is absolutely not the case! Again, we are under **GRACE** not law and under grace we receive God's unmerited favor. If our times of failure impacted God's provisions, then we would be in a judicial relationship and we are not. Israel failed miserably and they were still blessed. God still provided the food they needed.

2. The giving of the manna was a test.

Notice Exodus 16:4-5

God would give to Israel the manna every morning. They were to gather what they needed for the day and nothing more. On the sixth day they were to gather enough for two days for the manna would not fall on the seventh day/the Sabbath.

The giving of the manna daily was to test the faith of the people. They could not gather an abundance and store it up for later, but they had to trust God each day for their needs. God wanted them to trust Him and to not rely upon a back up plan of any kind. Think about what they faced. Can you imagine going to bed tonight with nothing in the refrigerator or breadbox for breakfast? You have NOTHING. The children ask you before they fall

asleep, "Mom, what is for breakfast tomorrow?" You must answer and say, "WE will not know until the morning." This is a test of faith.

Application:

Human nature always desires a warranty or some sort of safety net. This is why in many marriages today people draw up prenuptial agreements. These are safety nets set up in marriages just in case it does not work out. The one who insists on the agreement then does not lose what they came into the marriage with. When Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees, he carried a safety net with himself and he also became entangled in his own safety net.

Genesis 12:10-13

¹⁰ And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.

¹¹ And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon:

¹² Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.

¹³ Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.

Abraham feared for his life as he made his way to Egypt and for that reason, he and Sarah formulated a plan of the flesh to escape death, instead of trusting God. They should have walked by faith and trusted the Lord for whatever they faced. Now let us go a little further ahead and get some more information.

Genesis 20:

And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar.

² And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah.

God intervened and revealed to Abimelech the Truth and he then called Abraham and questioned him.

Genesis 12:9-13

⁹ Then Abimelech called Abraham, and said unto him, What hast thou done unto us? and what have I offended thee, that thou hast brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? thou hast done deeds unto me that ought not to be done.

¹⁰ And Abimelech said unto Abraham, What sawest thou, that thou hast done this thing?

¹¹ And Abraham said, Because I thought, Surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will slay me for my wife's sake.

¹² And yet indeed she is my sister; she is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.

¹³ And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said unto her, This is thy kindness which thou shalt shew unto me; at every place whither we shall come, say of me, He is my brother.

Abraham and Sarah had developed a back up plan before they ever started out to follow God. Then when the tests came, they fell back on their plan two times.

This is what happens when we rely upon our safety nets. Instead of trusting God we trust in the safety net. Let us ask ourselves a question when we face a trial, "Am I fully trusting in the Lord with all my heart?"

Here is a good question for us to answer in our minds, "When is the last time God has let you down?" He has never failed us so why should we doubt Him? He has proved repeatedly that He is faithful and yet when our faith is tested, we squirm if we don't have a safety net. We squirm if we do not have enough to get us through for a month. These people went to bed with nothing for breakfast at all. They had to trust in God every single day for their needs.

Now many of them failed just like we do also and there is something interesting here to see.

Notice Exodus 16:14-20

Here in verse 20 we see that some lacked faith and they tried to stockpile the manna, but it became full of worms, probably maggots, and it smelled terrible.

If we would have been traveling with Israel it would not have been difficult to know who lacked faith because as you walked by their tent you could smell the stench.

Application:

When we lack faith, it stinks! This made me think about something for our day. What if when we lacked faith in God during the trials and the tests that our lack of faith cast forth a stench? If someone stopped by your home during the trials what would your home smell like? Would it have a sweet smell of faith or would it stink from the lack of faith?

Let me share with a story from the life of George Mueller who ran an orphanage completely by faith. One morning he had no food or drink and he had 300 children. What do you do in a situation such as this?

"The children are dressed and ready for school. But there is no food for them to eat," the housemother of the orphanage informed George Mueller. George asked her to take the 300 children into the dining room and have them sit at the tables. He thanked God for the food and waited. George knew God would provide food for the children as he always did. Within minutes, a baker knocked on the door. "Mr. Mueller," he said, "last night I could not sleep. Somehow, I knew that you would need bread this morning. I got up and baked three batches for you. I will bring it in." Soon, there was another knock at the door. It was the milkman. His cart had broken down in front of the orphanage. The milk would spoil by the time the wheel was fixed. He asked George if he could use some free milk. George smiled as the milkman brought in ten large cans of milk. It was just enough for the 300 thirsty children."

Mueller thanked God for what he would receive before he ever had it in his possession.

3. The manna is a picture of Jesus Christ.

John 6:30-35

³⁰ *They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?*

³¹ *Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*

³² *Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.*

³³ *For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.*

³⁴ *Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.*

³⁵ *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

Just as Israel needed the manna daily for their physical strength so we need to feed upon Jesus/the Word each and every day for spiritual strength. Israel had to labor daily to get the manna and then prepare it. In the same way we must labor in the Word of God to get what we need for each day. It takes an effort to gather our spiritual food.

My mind goes to what Jesus taught His disciples about prayer in the Sermon on the Mount. We are to pray;

Matthew 6:11

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

How do we pray this when our freezers are full, and we have enough food to last several months? The answer is this can also apply to our spiritual food. So, as we feed on the Word maybe our need for the day is joy, or wisdom, or strength, or patience, or faith, or courage and the list continues. But from this we get the picture. Just as God met the needs of Israel so He will also meet our needs daily. So, we must gather our needs every morning and trust Him for tomorrow to do the same.

Conclusion:

I will leave you with the Words from the Apostle Paul.

Philippians 4:19

¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.