

# Part 12: Bread From Heaven

## SERMON SERIES: EXODUS - FINDING FREEDOM Bread From Heaven Exodus 16:1-36

Devotion Emphasis: Real Needs

Day 1 – Israel provides complaining from their heart.

*Exodus 16:1-11* **16** They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. **2** And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, **3** and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” **4** Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. **5** On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” **6** So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, **7** and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” **8** And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the Lord.”

The Israelites were truly a strange group of people. They witnessed one of the greatest miracles the world has ever seen in the parting of the Red Sea and not long after they were complaining and grumbling about being hungry. They thought the Lord parted the Red Sea for them only to allow them to die in the wilderness. They were people of little faith! Here’s the crazy thing though; we are just like the Israelites. Lips that complain come from hearts of discontentment. How many often do we become consumed with our circumstances and forget the past work of God in our lives? How often do we fail to

recognize the regular blessings of God in our lives? When we know God, we never have a right to complain or grumble.

***Discipleship Challenge: Think about areas of discontentment in your life. Why are you discontent? When you answer those two questions, think about all the blessings you have in life and remember the Lord is the one who has provided you with the good things you have. Our circumstances could always be worse. It is only by the grace of God that they aren't.***

**Day 2 – God provides food from Heaven.**

***Exodus 16:12-36*** **12** 9 Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.’” **10** And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. **11** And the Lord said to Moses, **12** “I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’” **13** In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. **14** And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. **15** When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. **16** This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’” **17** And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. **18** But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. **19** And Moses said to them, “Let no one leave any of it over till the morning.” **20** But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. **21** Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted. **22** On the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers each. And when all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, **23** he said to them, “This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord; bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over lay aside to be kept till the morning.’” **24** So they laid it aside till the morning, as Moses commanded them, and it did not stink, and there were no worms in it. **25** Moses said, “Eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field. **26** Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is a Sabbath, there will be none.”

**27 On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. 28 And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws? 29 See! The Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Remain each of you in his place; let no one go out of his place on the seventh day." 30 So the people rested on the seventh day. 31 Now the house of Israel called its name manna. It was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. 32 Moses said, "This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Let an omer of it be kept throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'" 33 And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar, and put an omer of manna in it, and place it before the Lord to be kept throughout your generations." 34 As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the testimony to be kept. 35 The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan. 36 (An omer is the tenth part of an ephah.)**

Even though the Israelites were unfaithful to God and doubtful of His provision, God was faithful to provide for them. His provision came in such a way that it required the daily faith of the Israelites. This is an example the Lord wants us to follow in our lives. God is faithful to provide for our needs and He wants us to recognize Him as our daily provider. God always provides for our needs, but many times we fail to recognize exactly what our needs are. The Lord knows exactly what we need and when we need it and He is never late in providing for the needs He recognizes. God has given us the ability to provide for our own needs to an extent but we must be ever diligent to make sure we are relying on the Lord and not ourselves. When we become singularly focused on taking care of ourselves we usually forget who it is that we truly need.

***Worship Challenge: How has God provided for you? Think about all the good things you have in life. They may be in abundance or few but whatever you have has been directly granted to you by God. How is your attitude toward this truth? Make necessary adjustments by spending time thanking God for every good thing you have in life today.***

### **Day 3 - The Cost of Following Jesus**

***Matthew 8:18-22 18 Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. 19 And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." 20 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." 21 Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 22 And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."***

When hearing the Gospel of Jesus for the first time, many accept Him in hopes of finding an immediately better life in regard to their physical security and wellbeing. While following Jesus is the best and most blessed life, these blessings often come at the cost of what we understand to be normal blessings. When Jesus was approached by some who claimed they wanted to follow Him, He immediately revealed that following Him would cost them everything. Jesus did not have a home or much of anything really. His mission was to worship God, not to accumulate earthly wealth. Jesus is the master who understands the cost of following God.

***Discipleship Challenge: What is your attitude toward following Jesus? Are you following Him in hope of selfish gain? Do you recognize the cost that comes with following Jesus? Think about the many ways Jesus lived a life of sacrifice. Compare and contrast His life with yours.***

#### **Day 4 – Good Gifts**

***James 1:16-18 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.***

We know all good gifts come from God, but what exactly is a good gift? The world provides us with a plethora of sinful gifts that we often mistake as gifts from God. Every gift from God is one that brings us closer to Him. True gifts from God never lead us away from Him or His word but always closer to Him. As we grow in our maturity as followers of Jesus we will even come to realize that times of intense difficulty can be gifts from God.

***Discipleship Challenge: When did a time of difficulty in your life produce good things? God allows us to go through trials because they grow our faith. Sometimes they bring us closer together. Many good things can come from difficult circumstances. Determine if you are at a place in your walk with God where you are able to view trials as blessings.***

#### **Day 5 – Christians Are Called To Meet Needs**

***Matthew 25: 31-40 31“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was***

***hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’***

God doesn't rain mana from Heaven anymore but He still does provide for the needs of the world through His people. Christians have been given a special call to meet the deepest need of everyone around us. Everybody needs Jesus and we are the ones who get to tell everybody about Him. One of the greatest ways we can tell others about Jesus is by showing them who He is. When we see someone who has a need, we need to be the ones who take initiative to meet that need as Jesus would meet that need. When we are faithful to do this, we will have great opportunities to make disciples and teach others to follow in the example of Jesus.

***Evangelism Challenge: Everyone has different needs. Who around you has a need you can meet? Some people have physical needs. Others have emotional needs and might just need a person to talk to. Make a decision to meet the need of someone around you and use that as an opportunity to share the love of Jesus.***

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