



DESERT VIEW BIBLE CHURCH

TRANSFORMING PRAYER • LUKE 11:3; EXODUS 16:3-4 •

11/5/2023

MAIN POINT

As Sustainer and Provider, we can trust God to take care of all our needs.

INTRODUCTION

What are some things you like doing by yourself or knowing you can do without anyone else's help?

Why is it often difficult to admit we need help?

How might self-sufficiency impact a person's prayer life?

There is something at our core that makes us want to be self-sufficient and say, "I can do it myself!". A desire to take personal responsibility is part of growing in life,

but that same feeling gets in our way as well. There are some things in life we can't handle alone, nor are we fully capable of doing by ourselves. Jesus made a transition to personal petition in His model prayer. When we ask God to give us our daily bread, we're acknowledging that He alone is Provider and Sustainer of the Universe and that we can trust and depend on Him for all our needs.

UNDERSTANDING

READ LUKE 11:3.

What comes to mind when you think about daily bread in your life? Do you see your need for God to provide for you daily? Explain.

What are some specific ways God has provided you daily bread in the past?

What do we acknowledge about the character of God when we ask Him to give us our daily bread?

Why do you think Jesus taught that this should be a daily request?

God is our provider. Whether or not we recognize it, we're dependent on Him each day to give us everything we need. When we pray like this daily, we acknowledge that God alone can fulfill all our needs and satisfy us. We also humbly acknowledge that we can't provide for ourselves.

Read Matthew 4:1-4. How does the nature of your prayers change when you realize that your greatest needs are spiritual and not physical?

Considering your spiritual need for God, what does it mean for you to ask Him for bread today?

Jesus' response to the devil is a reminder that the daily bread we seek from the Father isn't merely physical; it's His Word that sustains us. When we come to God asking for our daily bread, we should be aware that our true need is in our souls. We need God and His Word to tell us who He is, who we are, the nature of life and the universe, and how we're supposed to live. As we pray for our daily bread, we can and should trust God to provide for us physically. At the same time, we should pray for and give thanks for His willingness to meet our greatest need—spiritual hunger for Him. God can be trusted. We know this because He has ultimately provided for our greatest need through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

READ EXODUS 16:3-4.

What had the Israelites forgotten in their hunger and alarm? How did the food crisis cloud their memory about Egypt?

Considering their situation, was it wrong for the Israelites to complain? What might they have done instead?

In Luke 11:3, Jesus taught His followers to pray for daily bread. In Exodus 16, we see how God provided literal daily bread for His people in the wilderness. Having been miraculously delivered from slavery in Egypt, the Israelites crossed the Red Sea under Moses' leadership. However, despite witnessing the wonders of God, the people soon drifted into fear and complaining:

What forms of self-protection or patterns of thinking might make you forget your daily dependence on the Lord?

God was very serious about His command to only gather enough bread for the day. When the people gathered more than they needed, the bread from heaven bred

worms and stank. This is a powerful lesson for both the children of Israel and the children of God today. When we hoard for tomorrow, we quickly forget just how weak and needy we are. When Jesus taught us to ask for daily bread, the point was to rely on God daily and not only at moments when we feel clear need. When we pray this part of the Lord's Prayer, we're not only expressing our trust in God to give us what we need to survive, but we're also acknowledging our tendency to seek to provide for ourselves.

APPLICATION

What are some ways you want or need to see Jesus' provision for you this week?

What are some barriers in your life that keep you from having complete dependence on God as your Provider?

How does remembering what God has done in the past help you pray with confidence about the future?

PRAYER

Praise God for His provision and providential care for you. Ask God to increase your faith so that you can trust Him for everything you need on a daily basis. Ask Him to give you a heightened sense of your need for His provision this week.

COMMENTARY

LUKE 11:3

Jesus encouraged the disciples to ask the Father to meet their needs, but in doing so they were to display faith in His provision. Believers may ask for bread, representing whatever material needs they might have. The inclusion of the words “each day” and “daily” suggest that the Lord can be trusted to provide what is needed every day.

Prayer for excess is never appropriate because it betrays a heart of greed and a lack of faith. Believers are not to beg for their bread, nor are they to demand it. Give us carries the sense of a person in prayer sharing a need with the full expectation the Father will gladly hear and provide. When we pray, we are not to focus solely on our needs but are to offer our prayers inclusively. The use of terms such as “give us” and “our daily bread” demonstrates the collective nature of Christian prayer.

EXODUS 16:3-4

16:3. Difficulties in the present can often make us long for times when circumstances seemed to be better. Facing a lack of food, the Israelites reflected on “the good old days” of Egyptian slavery! As shepherds and herdsmen during their early years in Egypt, the Israelites could have eaten meat whenever they desired; but most would not have butchered animals needed for other purposes merely to satisfy their hunger. Grains probably constituted their basic diet. After they were enslaved they would not have enjoyed an oversupply of food. However, compared to their present circumstances even a slave’s rations seemed like a feast.

16:4. God declared that He would meet the Israelites’ needs for food—not just in the immediate situation but also over the long term. Beginning the next day, bread would fall from heaven each morning. As God had delivered them from the Egyptians and from a lack of potable water, so He would deliver them from hunger. His nature

had not changed nor would His nature ever change. He consistently would care for His people. The gift of daily bread would test Israel's devotion to God.