

# Truer Bread from Heaven



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**Exodus 16:1-12**

I do not know if you have ever noticed this, but some of the greatest parenting moments come just right before dinner. It seems like almost every night right before dinner me and my wife have to have instruction. We have to have teaching, because what often happens, if you have kids, is right before dinner you get a lot of grumbling and you get a lot of complaining. You hear a lot of things like, "Mom, is it time to eat yet? I am starving to death!" Right? It is almost every night! You have to go through, "Ok, number one, you are not starving to death. You just ate four hours ago. Secondly, we need to practice patience because that is a fruit of the Spirit. You need to be patient and wait for you food." Then, when the foods get there you get the, "UGH! What is this?" Then, you have the reverse action where it is like, "You know, there are kids that are starving around the world who would love to have those vegetables." You get all of these teaching moments, all of these parenting moments...*Do I have to sit down the whole time?* "Yes, you have to sit down the whole time because the table is about food, but it is also about fellowship." *Do I have to eat all of it?* "Yes, you have to eat all of your food." *Well, it is too hot... or... it is too cold!* "Well, you just need to be thankful for what you have." If you are

a parent, mealtime often comes with lots of grumbling and lots of complaining. As a parent, you have to give lots of teaching to meet those grumbles and complaints. That is exactly what happens in Exodus chapter 16. It is dinner time and they are hungry. They begin to grumble and complain. In their grumbling and in their complaining, what God does as a loving and gracious Father is He goes to them, and He teaches them in their hunger.

## Scripture

***"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. And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, 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.' 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. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.' 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, 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?' 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.' 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.' 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. And the Lord said to Moses, '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.'"***

So, let's work through this narrative. It is a great story. It is a great story to tell. The first thing that happens is Israel got hungry. A natural thing happens, right? Israel is hungry. They are wandering around the wilderness. We can all understand that they are hungry. Their hunger produces grumbling and we can sort of understand that, too. Just imagine the people of Israel. There are thousands if not millions of these people. They are all over the place! If you think about it, it is not just adults, but it is also children and children do not do really well when they are hungry and do not have food. So, you can imagine as they are wandering through this wilderness, following the Lord, that they begin to get hungry.

Usually, parents can fight that hunger a little bit more than kids. But, can you imagine the kids?... *Hey, mom! I am tired... Hey, dad! I am tired! I am hungry! I do not want to walk! I am hungry!...* Can you imagine the kids, over and over again, nagging the moms?

The moms would say... *yes, just wait. Daddy is going to go show us. Right, honey? Honey, there is food, right? We are coming up on food, right?*

All the dads would say... *yep just wait. Moses and Aaron are leading us there. They are about to take us to Chick-fil-A. Just hold on just a second. Moses, right? Aaron, right? You are leading us to food, right?*  
Moses and Aaron... *Umm, we are following God. We really do not know.*

So, you have this idea that they are grumbling. They are complaining because they are hungry. They want food and we can obviously understand why they are hungry and why they need food. But, what is amazing is who do they go to for food? Who do they go to, to fix their

hunger pains? They go to Moses and they go to Aaron. I just think that is crazy! I mean, if you are following the God of the universe who is appearing to you in a cloud of glory, he has just rescued you from Egypt, he has rescued you from the parting of the Red Sea, and he has just given you water when you were thirsty, who should you go to, to be fed? It should be the most natural thing. You should go to God! These people should not be grumbling to Moses and Aaron. Instead, they should be asking the Lord to feed them. We sing that song that says, "You are a good, good Father," right? That is who God is! He is a good, good father.

Do you remember Jesus in the gospels when he is talking about prayer? He says... *what father when a kid asks for bread does he give him a stone? What father when a kid says, "daddy, I am hungry," says, "well... tough, kid."* ... No good father does that, right? Every good father feeds his kids. So, I cannot imagine Israel not believing that God was a good father who not only has led them out into the wilderness, but also has a plan to provide for them. See, here are these people. What they needed to know was that God was not only the God who rescues them, but God was also the God who sustains them. Every. Single. Day. He was not just a one-time rescuer. Every single day he will meet their needs and he will provide for them. See, Israel did not trust him as a good, good father yet because they did not know him yet in a real, intimate way. And, we are going to see, hopefully, what the manna and the meat was supposed to do. It was for them to get to know God better and so that they would understand truly that he is a good, good father.

So, Israel got hungry and then here is what happened. Israel remembered their past pleasures, but they forgot their past chains. They are hungry and they start complaining to God. Actually, they are complaining to Moses and Aaron, and do you know what they say? *Moses and Aaron, why did you not just leave us in Egypt? Would it not be better for God to just kill us there? That would have been better! I wish God would have killed us along with the Egyptians in Egypt! Do you know why? Because in Egypt we were eating from meat pots and we had bread to our fill. We were satisfied! We were not hungry! We were eating. It was good in Egypt!* So, here Israel is

hungry and they are remembering a time when they used to be full. They are remembering a time when they used to have pleasure in eating and it was in Egypt. So, they are wanting to go back to Egypt. They are saying it was better when they were in Egypt because there they were full, and in the wilderness with God they are hungry, they are starving, so it is better for them to go back than for them to stay there. Israel remembered the joys of Egypt, but they forgot the chains they were wearing while enjoying those joys. They forgot... *oh, yeah. We were full in Egypt, but guess what? We were getting whipped in the back! We had chains on us! We were being fed only for the purpose of going back to work, so that we could labor for someone else because we were in slavery.* See, the Israelites remembered those little fleeting pleasures of eating meat and bread, but they forgot how terrible their life was under the tyrant of Egypt.

You know, I think we are not any different. Often, what we do is, even though we have been rescued by God, when we get in those moments where we are lonely, sad, just need some excitement, or just want some pleasure we remember those old meat pots that we used to go to. We remember that old bread that we used to eat before Christ while we were in Adam. We remember how fun it was. *Man, I remember when I just did what I wanted to do. I did whatever my flesh desired and I remember how much pleasure that brought to me.* What we do is remember and we want to go back to those things we used to run to for satisfaction and enjoyment. When we remember those things often we forget the price that they cost us. Because we did not enjoy those things in freedom, we enjoyed those things in slavery. As we did those things, yes, they brought us momentary, short pleasure but it was under slavery. It was under something that we could not get out from under. It ultimately brought us misery. Every pleasure was met with more and more misery. And, the more we enjoyed it the more miserable we were. So, we have to remember that when we long for the meat pots and the bread of our past, we have to automatically remember those were eaten in chains. They were not as good as we remember. So, do not think about the moment or the act. Think about what it cost you. Think about the damage it did to you and your family. Think about the damage it did to your life. Think about all

of the suffering that it caused. Think about the chains, not the momentary pleasure.

See, that is what Israel needed to remember. They did not just need to remember their old life and the momentary pleasures. They needed to remember the chains that went with it so that they would not long for Egypt, but they would long for something better. And, that is what we need to do as believers. We do not need to long for the sins of the world, the things that we used to do, we need to long for something better. And that is what God wanted Israel to see. He wanted Israel to see... *I am not going to give you what you want. I am not going to give you those old pleasures you once desired. I am going to give you something even better. Yes, you are hungry. Yes, this is how you used to get full. But, I am going to give you something that is going to quench and satisfy that hunger forevermore. That is me!* So, God is not going to give them what they want; he is going to give them something better. And, here we see in God's grace here is what God does: he replaces their former food with **BETTER** and **TRUER** food. So, God is going to replace their former food with better and truer food. So, what does he replace? Notice the difference. He replaces their bread of Egypt from the bread of Heaven. Which one sounds better to you: bread made in Egypt or bread made in Heaven? When we talk about things, we add an adjective. Sometimes we say things like... *wow, that looks heavenly.* When we say that, what are we saying? We are saying that it does not get any better than that! We are saying that it must have come from the hand of the Lord. God is offering them bread, not of Egypt, not bread that they can make, but bread made from Heaven. We have this manna that gets given to the people of Israel. It is amazing the way that God and his grace provides for his people. If this was me and I had just rescued this people, I am leading this people, and now they are grumbling and complaining I am going to be pretty close to wiping them out. But, God does not do that. He is gracious. He is a loving father who goes to his children and teaches them what they really want and need is not meat pots of Egypt, but him. They are only going to be satisfied in him.

So, what God says is... *I am going to give you bread from Heaven.* They call it manna. When they say, "What is this," that is where we get the word manna. It translates to "what is this." It kind of describes what this manna is. It is going to come every morning. It will be with the dew on the ground and it is going to be all over the place. It is going to be like a honey wafer. You know, as I am thinking about what manna is, I do not know, but every time I read that I picture Krispy Kreme donuts all over the grass. That is just what is in my mind. I am convinced that is what it was! So, you can correct me if you think I am wrong, but that is what I read in the text. Just imagine every morning if there were Krispy Kreme donuts all over the grass. Would that not be the life if you just woke up every morning and there were Krispy Kreme donuts all over the place? This is unbelievable how God provides for his people. It is unbelievable that he is going to shower them with bread.

For the ones who gather a bunch, there is going to be none left over. The ones who gather a little will have everything they could possibly need. It is this sustaining bread that is not sustaining because of their effort or work ability, but it is sustaining bread because who it is from. It is from the Lord. Then, in the evening, they would have meat. They would have quail, but they do not have to go hunt it; they just have to collect it. It is not a scenario where they are going to have quail and in their effort, go out and hunt every night. No, it is the quail is going to come to them.

I am just imagining my boys. They would have absolutely LOVED to gather dinner. It would have been like... *hey, just go get the quails.* You can imagine all of the kids of Israel gathering up quails... *hey, mom! I caught 35. Here you go!* They are just sitting there. It is not effort, work, or labor. They just go and receive it. They are not having to go scout out the quail. The quail are coming to them. So, here they are hungry, and what does God do? He graciously meets their needs. And, do you know what the purpose of the manna is for? God said it was so that they would know him and they would see his glory. That kind of strikes me a little bit because do they not already know God? They have seen him in this mighty way. He

rescued them from Egypt and he rescued them through the Red Sea. Have they not already seen and known God?

So, what is it talking about? Now they are going to know him through the manna, through this every day activity of gathering the manna from the Lord. And, here is what I think the meaning is: Israel, yes they know God in a sense of he rescued them, but they have not yet gotten to know him in a deep, intimate level because they have not walked with him day in and day out. What God is going to say is the way the people of Israel are really going to know him is not in just a one-time, big event. They are going to get to know him through that, but the real way they are going to get to know him and see his glory is going to him every single day for their daily provisions- that day by day walk in collecting the manna.

I think for us it is the same way. You came to know the Lord when he saved you. You entered a relationship with the Lord when he rescued you, but you have a whole lot more to know about the Lord. And, do you know how you are really going to get to know him? And, how you are really going to see his glory? It is not just always remembering that one time event when he showed up to you. It is by your everyday going to him and receiving the manna from his word that he has provided for you. It is that every day gathering, everyday coming to him for your needs and your satisfaction. That is how you get to know him more and more. That is how you trust him more and more. That is how you love him more and more.

See, some of you do not know the Lord that well. You have a relationship with him, but you are not living your life radically for his glory and you cannot understand why. The reason you might be is because you have forgotten it is not just a one-time event, but it is a daily walk with the Lord that we were meant to have. We were meant to see him every single day. The God who saved us one time will also be the God that will sustain our every need day by day. That is a huge thing! God rescues us once but then he sustains us every day of our lives as we come to him and we enjoy him. So, God has provided for us our satisfaction every single day. So we need to come to him every day to get those satisfactions met.



One of the other things that the manna was for was testing. God gave the manna for testing. He says it twice in this chapter. It was to test Israel to see whether they would obey or disobey, whether they would follow his word or not, and whether they would trust him completely or trust in themselves. And, do you know what happened? Israel failed the test. They had to trust God completely. That is what the manna was about. God set it up that way. And, here is how he did it. He said every morning you have to go gather. After the morning, it is all done away with. So, if you were an Israelite and said...*well, I will just go out at lunchtime...*it was not there. You could not do it your own way; you had to do it God's way. God said how to get the manna- every morning and then it burns away. Then he said in the evening you have to go and gather the quail. It is only in the evening time that you can get your meat. And, here was the thing, they had to gather at a certain time, but secondly, they could not store up leftovers for tomorrow.

I do not know if you are like me, but I love leftovers. Anytime Katie cooks something really big I am always really excited because I will get to have leftovers for about three days. There are provisions for tomorrow. I know I will not starve at lunchtime because I have leftovers. They are in a little box inside the refrigerator and I am excited about them! The Israelites were so excited about the manna and the quail they wanted to have leftovers. They wanted to box it up just in case God forgot to pour it out the next day. They wanted to grab a few boxes and reserve it. And, do you know what happened? Israel said... *ok, let's do that.* Then, when they opened the box, guess what? It was worms and it stunk because God says... *this is not about you providing for yourself your own way. This is about you getting your provisions met in me and my way alone. It is only through me and it is only through my way that you are going to have your provisions met.*

Then we see that they could only gather six days and they had to rest on the seventh day. So on the seventh day, on Saturday, on the Sabbath, there would be no wafers and there would be no quail. There will be

nothing on the seventh day. So on the sixth day, they had to gather extra. Well, what happened? On the seventh day, half of the Israelites go out to gather stuff even though God had told them nothing was going to be there. They were like... *well, let's see. Maybe he is going to forget and not provide on Sunday so let's go and gather it today as well.* What happened? Nothing was there because God told them how they were to be provided for. It was his way and not their own. They had to trust him. They had to rely on him.

So, God put them to test and here is what we see: Israel failed the test. They disobeyed. Moses gets mad at them! God gets mad at them! *Why will you not obey my word? Why will you not just do what I say?* Really, the whole story of the forty years of wandering is about Israel who always does not obey. They always fail the test. But, here is the great news. Even though Israel failed the test, Jesus did not. See, Israel failed the test. They had simple instructions and they could not obey. They could not trust in the Lord. They tried to provide for themselves in their own way. They tried to work around God instead of under God. And, that is how all of us are. None of us trust God completely. We all try to do it in our own way and we all fail miserably at passing the test of obedience to God. But, the good news for us is there was one who did not fail the test. There was one who perfectly obeyed and passed the test. His name is Jesus.

Do you remember when Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness? Here we have Israel who has bread every day yet cannot obey God. Here is Jesus who had no bread for forty days yet he perfectly obeyed God. See, the difference is Israel does not obey. Jesus always obeys. And, do you know what the good news is? If you are a believer then you have been put in Jesus which means in Christ you too have passed the test. In Christ, you too always obey rather than disobey. See, Israel could not obey God because they were not true Israel. There was only one true Israelite and his name is Jesus Christ. He is the only one who truly obeyed. So, it was only the Israelites who ended up trusting in the provision that God would bring about a Messiah who became true Israel. It was always about faith. It was always about trust. It was not ever in their own effort to please

God. It was always in trusting that the Messiah would please God and that through him they would be people who please God. It was trusting the provision of what God was going to do for them rather than them trusting in their own provision for themselves.

So, what is the big picture? The big picture of Israel is this: we see the Israelites grumbled because they missed the bread of their slavery. Yet, God graciously answered their grumbling with better and truer bread from Heaven. The Lord who rescued them was also the Lord who would satisfy them daily even though they still rebelled. That is the big picture of what happened to the Israelites.

So now what I want to do it turn to John chapter 6 and I want to show you how manna, Jesus, and the gospel all connect together because Jesus actually uses this story to connect it to himself and to the gospel. So, let's look first in verse 26. Verse 26 says this, "Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.""

Just before this, Jesus fed the 5,000. He fed 5,000 people! They were satisfied. Their bellies were full. Now, the day has passed and guess what? The people's bellies are hungry again so they come to Jesus. Jesus knows they are not coming to him because they saw a sign, now believe he is the Messiah, and want to come to him. They are going to him because their bellies are still hungry and they want him to do another trick. They want him to give them some more bread. They want him to throw them another bone. That is why they are going to Jesus. But here is what Jesus very instinctively knows. Even though their bellies are hungry, there is a bigger problem. The bigger problem is not an empty belly. The bigger problem is an empty heart. Their hearts were empty. Their hearts needed to be satisfied. That is why Jesus said do not work for the food that perishes away that only gives your physical, daily provisions, but labor for that which endures for eternal life. You do not just need daily life. You need

eternal life! That is what your heart was made for. That is what you truly long for.

So, what Jesus offers them is better food- food that does not perish versus food that does perish. Here is what we read in verse 28, "Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." 30 So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"" Here we see in this text that they want to get this bread. So, they ask Jesus... *how do we get it? What can we do? How do we work for it? How do we earn it? How do we labor? How do we in our own effort get this bread that is going to give us eternal life?* See, our human response is always, what do I do? What part must I play? How should I work? How should I gather? How should I store? How should I keep enough? How should I fix my own problem, Jesus? Just tell me and I will do it. Here is what Jesus says, here is the work you must do: believe in me.

That is kind of odd, right? It is like... *Jesus, tell me what work I should do...*

Jesus: *Here is the work: you cannot work; you have to trust in me. I have done the work. I am giving you something. You cannot work, you cannot buy, you provide, and you cannot satisfy. The only thing you can do is trust in me, believe in me. The work of God is not to work but believe.*

That is the glory of what Jesus is trying to tell them. This is not man's effort. Just like in the wilderness, it was not the Israelites and their own effort satisfying their own desires. It was the Israelites trusting God and walking in faith that God would do exactly what God said he would do. So, they must believe in Jesus. That is how they would receive this bread. They are like... *well, could you give us another sign? Could you make more bread come because that is what God did in the Old Testament with the children of Israel.* So, again, what do they want? They do not want Jesus; they want bread. They are hungry. They are trying to get him to do

another trick to get another loaf so that they can have their bellies full. But, Jesus comes back and he presses in. Here is what he says in verse 32, "Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."" Jesus said... *here is the deal. In the exodus, (that is what they are going back to) Moses and Aaron did not give the people bread. God gave the people bread. It was God who satisfied them. That bread was meant to point to something greater. It was meant to point to better manna, better bread. That was the bread that would come down from Heaven that God would provide for his people and would meet every need and desire of their heart.*

So, they say... *give it to us. We want this bread. What is this bread? Just do a trick and give it to us!*

What does Jesus say? Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall no hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

*...Give it to us Jesus! Do another trick! Make another loaf! We are hungry!*

Jesus - *YOU ARE MISSING IT! I am not talking about a physical piece of bread. I am not talking about your physical desires. I am talking about something much bigger. I am talking about those deep desires of your heart. You are starving to death in your soul and the only thing that is going to satisfy your soul is the bread from Heaven. And, guess what? I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE. If you will come to me, if you will taste me, if you will feast on me then you will have LIFE, not just daily life, not just physical life, but eternal life. I will satisfy those deep longings of your heart.*

What a profound statement. Just think about that statement for a moment. If Jesus is not fully God, if he is just a guy who is teaching some good moral principles, which is what a lot of our culture will say, then how can

he say this?... *If you come to me, I am going to satisfy every part of your being for all of eternity...* Really? As a good teacher or a good guy? No! As the all-consuming God of the universe who created you through him and by him and for him. You were created by Jesus through Jesus FOR Jesus. Your heart was made to be satisfied in him. That is why he said... *you want to be full on a loaf of bread, but what your heart wants to be full is on God. And, guess what? I am that bread. I am the bread of life and if you eat of me you will never hunger and you will never thirst again. Your soul will be satisfied.* Jesus uses the manna to connect it to the gospel. And, what is that about? Yes, you are hungry and what you need is something deeper than just those momentary satisfactions of life. What you need is Jesus. You need him to satisfy your heart and your soul.

So, how do we connect to this story? We have connected to the Israelites. We have walked through their path. We have connected to the gospel as Jesus stands before these people some two thousand years ago. But, how do we connect to this story? How does our hearts connect to what we have just heard? Well, I think it is the same for us.

So, here is how we connect to this story.

Number 1, we are hungry. Here is what you need to know about yourself: you are hungry. You are hungry. You have desires. And, I am not just talking about being hungry right now because you missed the donut line. That is physical hunger. Yeah, you are hungry so you want a donut. We are not talking about that kind of hunger. Jesus is getting to a deeper hunger and here is the deeper hunger: you hunger and long for God. God has given you a God appetite that you cannot satisfy apart from him. You want meaning, purpose, joy, and a life that matters. You want to be satisfied. You do not want to be sad. You have all of these things that are all really spiritual things. You have these desires and those desires work out in all sorts of different ways, but the point is you have a deep need for Jesus. You are hungry and what you need is not another frill or another thing. What you need is a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. That is

the only way your heart is going to be full. That is the only way you are going to be satisfied.

Number 2, we also have eaten our fill of the meat pots of this world. We have been hungry and our natural reaction in our hunger was to run to all sorts of meat pots that the world has offered us that say here is how you get satisfied. Some of us did it in utter rebellion. It is sexual immorality, drunkenness, and all sorts of things. You fill in the blank. It is gossip, greed, or anger. These sorts of things tell us that if you run to these sorts of things and live for them then you will be satisfied. If you just buy the next thing or get the next job. They can be good things, but they are just meat pots that you ran to not as good things, but as God things. You ran to them to fill the desires of your heart. You ate them to your full. The problem is they did not satisfy you.

For some of you it was not even rebellion. For some of you it was trying to be really, really good. Some people have the meat pot of... I am going to do really, really well. I am going to be an upstanding citizen, always do what is right, be a good church member, and always obey the law because I believe if I can always do good then I will be happy and God will owe me this better life. That is a meat pot. It is not going to work. You are not going to be satisfied because you have to understand you cannot always do this. You cannot always do good because you find yourself doing what is wrong.

So, whether it is in rebellion or whether it is in obedience, both of those you ran to for meat pots. You ran to them for satisfaction, but the problem is they actually did not satisfy you. You are still hungry. You are still longing for that next thing to try to fill you. Yes, you get moments of pleasure, but it never lasts. There always has to be something else- one more thing that will do it for you.

So, here is our problem: we run to the wrong things. But, God in his grace does the same thing with us. He offers us better and truer meat and bread from Heaven. God comes to us and he gives us an offer not of... hey, here

is another thing to try and fill yourself with. He does not offer us the same things we have been running to; he offers us something completely better. And that is himself... *Here is the one thing that you have been chasing your whole life- it is me. Here I am. I offer myself to you. If you will come and feast on me, you will be satisfied forevermore.* It is being absolutely full in him and then it is getting your daily fill in him every single day. If you are a believer, if you have gone through that transition where you have repented of all your meat pots and put your faith and trust in Christ, you feasted on him- that one-time event of salvation- then here is what also must happen. Just like the people of Israel, we also must rely on God to both satisfy our daily needs AND our forever need. It is both of those things. We must trust Christ to satisfy that forever need of a relationship with him, but we also must trust Christ to satisfy that every single daily need of our heart's need to be full of something.

See, we get forever satisfaction by tasting Jesus. That is forever satisfaction. But, we also need every single day satisfaction by continually feasting on him every single day afresh. He is the new manna, the every single day manna. Every morning when you wake up you run to him rather than something else.

I was very nervous to preach this sermon because it is Mother's Day and my mom found out that I was the one preaching this text. So, she calls me and she says, "Kory, I want you to know this is my favorite chapter in all of the Bible. I am so excited to hear it! It is going to be Mother's Day and you are preaching! I am so excited!" I thought... *oh, no. This is not good.* This is my mom's favorite passage, I am preaching, AND it is Mother's Day. That is a little bit of pressure. Right? I could wreck my mom's Mother's Day if I do not do this well. That was not the pressure I wanted on Monday. But she calls me and says, "Kory, I just want you to make sure everybody knows that it is the daily manna- that is how you get to know the Lord. It is the everyday waking up and seeking him in his word. That is how you get to know him more and more. And, that is how he more and more satisfies your soul. The everyday manna, the daily bread, the daily seeking after the Lord is where you see him and his glory and you know him more



and more.” So, for my mom’s words on Mother’s Day, we must seek the manna every single day. Not to get a relationship with God, we already have that, but to cultivate that relationship, to know him more and more so we love him more and more and we stop running to the things of this world. I am convinced if you will wake up and absolutely be full in Jesus those meat pots will turn your stomach. You will not want any of them. Because why? Because you are completely full in Jesus Christ.

But, you know, I also think we relate to this story in this way: we have failed the test as well. The manna was about a test: will you rely on me daily? Will you always run to me daily? The Israelites failed it. And, guess what? So do we. We fail the test. We do not always run to God every single day to get our deep satisfaction. We still often run to the meat pots of this world. But, the good news for us too is also the gospel. Jesus did not fail the test and we are in Jesus. Because we are in Jesus, everything that is true about Jesus is also true of us. So, if you are in Christ, guess what? You passed the test, not because of your own ability, but because you are in Christ. In Christ you have always obeyed. In Christ you have always ran to the Lord to get your satisfaction. So, when you fail or when you mess up, God does not turn away from you. No, he loves you through Jesus not through your own merit. So, whenever you find yourself running to the meat pots of your past, quickly turn away and realize you might have failed today, but in reality you have never failed because you are in Christ and God loves you just the same today as he did yesterday. So, today run back to Christ. Run back to him to fill your soul.

So, what is our action? What do we do every single day? Here is the action: fight the hunger pains of sin in Jesus and by Jesus. What do I mean by that? We fight the hunger pains of sin. You still long for those old things that used to satisfy you. You still want those from time to time. So, how do you fight those? You fight them **IN** Jesus and **BY** Jesus. What do I mean by that? **IN** Jesus. He is your source of obedience. So, in Christ is how you obey the Lord. It is IN Jesus you obey the Lord, but it is not just in Jesus that you fight your sin. He is your obedience, but it is also **BY** Jesus. Meaning, that by Jesus is how you fight sin. It is not just that he is your

obedience, but he is also your satisfaction. He is not just the one who gets you to obey; he is the one you are obeying and you get. He is the one who satisfies your heart forevermore. So, you are obeying the Lord in Jesus and in your obedience you see and savor the Lord Jesus. It is **IN** him and **BY** him you get Christ becomes your altogether satisfaction. So, when your belly growls for the sin that you used to enjoy remember the chains that they came with and remember Christ. In him, you have obeyed. And, remember, in Christ when you turn to him, he will truly satisfy your heart.

So, how do we live this life? We fight the hunger pains of sin in Jesus and by Jesus and we run to Christ. Christ is better than everything you once lived for. Christ is the thing your heart longs for every single day. It is not just a one-time event when he saved it. Yes, that is true. He saved you once and for all. But, guess what the manna is about? It is about everyday going back to him and feasting on him day by day. In your daily feasting of the Lord, guess what? You get to know him more. The more you know him the more you savor him. The more you savor him the more you are full in him. The more you are full in him the less appealing all of the stuff that you used to enjoy is because you see it is not just bread versus bread. It is failing bread versus true bread. It is something versus something way better and truer. What you want is the better and the truer bread. So, I pray for us that our hearts every single day would run to the Lord and we would be satisfied in him because that is what he offers his church.

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