

Give us this day our daily bread

1. Intro: The temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)
 - A. Bread, will, kingdom, worship
 - B. "Man shall not live by bread alone"
 - a. Jesus doesn't deny our need for food, but calls attention to what that need really means — we are utterly dependent on God in every way. Our obedience is more important than meeting our own needs!
 - b. Matthew 6:19-34 is an exposition on our dependency.
2. What are we asking for? (Poll)
 - A. Give
 - a. Not sell or trade or reward (ie. we are NEEDY)
 - b. Abraham & Isaac: Abraham still obeyed, but he trusted to provide ("God *himself* will provide the lamb.")
 1. Does not discount obedience or work
 - A. *Proverbs 6:6-8 Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler; she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.*
 - B. *1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*
 - c. Wealth is not the issue — godliness is. Wealth makes it harder to depend on God
 1. Calvin: those who pray this prayer and make this request to God while relying on their own abundance and trusting in their wealth... They request what they do not expect or hope from him for they believe that it is already theirs.
 2. Rich, poor & in-between need this prayer EQUALLY.
 - A. Anxiousness takes many forms: fear of lack, obsession with gain. Complaining about lack of resources or opportunities, workaholism, all expressions of a lack of trust in God's provision.
 - B. Sabbath - no manna
 - a. *And be 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. Deut 8:3.*
 - C. *Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God. Proverbs 30:8-9*
 - a. Our dependency is an expression of the holiness of his name!
 - B. Us
 - a. Don't ignore the pronouns!
 1. We ask not only for MY daily bread — we concern ourselves with the needs of our families and communities, all those whom we have been given opportunity to love and pray for.
 2. Pray for the poor!
 - A. Pray for compassion.
 - C. Today/Daily
 - a. The example of the manna
 - b. Do not worry...
 1. We are not instructed to pray about God's future provision, or to pray in advance (banking God's goodwill)
 - A. Should we pray for the future?
 - B. Storing up for the future — not sinful, but not to be trusted
 - a. Israel eventually entered the land and planted, harvested and stored, but instructed to remember the lesson of the manna.
 2. Prayer for today's needs implies thanksgiving: asking him for today's bread means that yesterday's bread came from him!
 - A. *...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Phil. 4:6*
 - D. Bread
 - a. Definitions:
 1. *Q. What is the fourth petition? A. "Give us this day our daily bread." That is: be pleased to provide for all our bodily needs so that thereby we may acknowledge that thou art the only source of all that is good, and that without thy blessing neither our care and labor nor our gifts can do us any good. Therefore we may withdraw our trust from all creatures and place it in thee alone. (Heidelberg catechism: Lord's Day 50, Q. 125)*

2. *Everything that belongs to the support and wants of the body, such as meat, drink, clothing, shoes, house, homestead, field, cattle, money, goods, a pious spouse, pious children, pious servants, pious magistrates, good government, good weather, peace, health, discipline, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like. (Martin Luther, Smaller Catechism)*
 3. *Vernacular: breaking bread, bread-winner, bread/dough as slang for money*
- b. Legitimacy of physical needs
1. Honors the body as the temple of the Spirit
 - A. Note Jesus' own physical humanity, even after his resurrection
 - B. *1 Corinthians 15:44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.*
 - C. *Philippians 3:21 Who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.* (Still a body)
 - D. He knows we are dust (Psalm 103)
 - a. Waiting tables — important enough to appoint the first deacons
 - b. Paul's collection
 - E. If we are to pray for something as common as bread, we should pray for everything!
 - c. What are real needs?
 1. "Seek first the Kingdom" does not mean nothing else matters.
 2. What if he does not provide?
 - A. Perhaps not a true need? Derek Prime: "There is a danger of our asking for material benefits which God in his love and wisdom denies us because our motivation is basically – and sometimes entirely – selfish, and which if he granted would lead us further astray (James 4:3). God is the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17). We often fail to look beyond the gifts to give. This prayer encourages us to fix our eyes where they ought to be."
 - B. Trust him anyway... William Edgar: "We would not understand god's ways were he always to provide exactly as we think he should."
3. *I AM the bread of life!*
- A. John 6 — a redefinition of food.
 - B. The order of priorities in prayer reflects the order of our needs!
 - C. Remember Christ's temptation
 - a. We are tempted to make idols out of legitimate needs
 - D. When instructed to pray to our Father who knows our needs, he promises... the Holy Spirit! (Matthew 7, Luke 11)
 - a. Psalm 23: He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake!



Maslow's hierarchy of needs