

Harris Creek Baptist Church
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Enough is Enough

Exodus 16:1-28

The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. ²In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the LORD’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.” ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. ⁵On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.” ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?” ⁸Moses also said, “You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD.” ⁹Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’”

¹⁰While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD said to Moses, ¹²“I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’” ¹³That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.’”

¹⁷ The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. ¹⁸ And when they measured it by the omer, the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed. ¹⁹ Then Moses said to them, “No one is to keep any of it until morning.” ²⁰ However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them. ²¹ Each morning everyone gathered as much as they needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away. ²² On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much—two omers for each person—and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. ²³ He said to them, “This is what the LORD commanded: ‘Tomorrow is to be a day of sabbath rest, a holy sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.’” ²⁴ So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it. ²⁵ “Eat it today,” Moses said, “because today is a sabbath to the LORD. You will not find any of it on the ground today. ²⁶ Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any.” ²⁷ Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none. ²⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, “How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions?”

Well recently I made a parenting mistake. I have a buddy who works at a church out of town, and he asked me to come speak at an event at his church on October 31st, a random Tuesday night. I look at my schedule, look at the church schedule, and I’m like, “I have nothing going on that Tuesday, I would love to speak at your event!” And then we get closer to October 31st, my wife is looking at the calendar, and she realizes, October 31st isn’t just a random Tuesday, it’s Halloween. Typically, it doesn’t matter; but this year is the first year where our daughter is really old enough where she would have enjoyed Halloween. So, Adalee is going “Nate, what are we going to do? Who is going to take Jaycee out trick or treating?” And we have a newborn, “Who is going to be caring for the newborn?” And then, “Who is going to be handing out Halloween candy to trick or treaters?” And I just said, “Babe, that sounds like a great job for you! Like you got it!” No, I didn’t say that. I was like “No, I’m so sorry! I don’t know! What shall we do?”

Eventually we decided that- I know this is lame- but we were going to just put a bowl out in front of our door. I know it’s not the most fun thing in the world, but that’s what we had to do. My wife was putting the girls down to sleep, and then trying to fill up the bowl at the same time. She had a lot going on. So, we put a bowl of candy right outside our door, and then we put a sign right above that bowl of candy. Anyone have any idea what that sign said? (*Multiple audience responses with “Please take one.”*) Yeah, yeah, “Please take one.”

We realized that night, the least effective sign in the history of the world is on Halloween; a “Please take one piece of candy” sign. Because, at one point, my wife went out there to refill the bowl in-between putting the girls down to sleep, and she opens the door, not only to see that the

bowl wasn't just empty, but the bowl was gone! (*Audience laughs*) I know! And it wasn't like a plastic bowl, this was our fruit bowl that someone gave to us for our wedding. When she told me- I'm driving back, and I'm like, "This middle school kid came, and he didn't just take extra candy, he took the whole stinking bowl!" I mean, this is like his super bowl, he's walking around going "I got all the candy I could ever possibly need!" It was just frustrating. But you know, we learned a lesson that night. We learned that kids can't really control themselves; because children are always going to take more than what they need.

But you know, I'm excited for this Thursday. Because this Thursday it's not Halloween, it's a much better holiday. We got Thanksgiving coming up, and I'm going to be with my in-laws. My in-laws are amazing cooks. My father-in-law, he's going to be cooking a turkey on the Big Green Egg. My mother-in-law is an amazing cook. She's really going to be cooking nearly everything else. And I tell you what, whenever I get that plate and I'm going through the buffet line; I'm getting turkey; I'm getting mashed potatoes; I'm getting green beans. I have no time for the sweet potatoes with the marshmallows on top, who likes that? I don't know who that's for! But maybe I will get some mac and cheese. I'm going to load my plate up! And then we're going to get to dessert and it's going to be like "Hey, do you want pumpkin pie or do you want apple pie? And I'm going to be like "Why would I choose? Let's have both!" And if you were sitting with me at that table, at the end of the meal, you might say "You know, it sure looks like you took more than you need."

Now I promise I'm not just preaching today to try and ruin your Thanksgiving, I promise. I'm not just talking about food; let's take it one step further. Maybe, if we were to go over to your house and we took a look at your closet, I think we might say "It sure looks like you bought more than you need." Or, if we were to look at your savings account, I think for some of us we might say "Man, it sure looks like you saved more than you need." If we were to look at your alcohol consumption we might say "Man, it sure looks like you drink more than you need." Or, if we were to look at your kids' toys, we might say "Man, it sure looks like you bought more for them than you need."

You see, gluttony is a word that really seems outdated. It's not really necessarily in our vernacular, but it's in the lives that we live. In fact, this is really a sin struggle that is probably in the lives of every single one of us. I know it's in my life. And scripture really says that gluttony is a sin. Gluttony is a word that means over-indulgence. It means taking more than what you need. And while it does mean food, it means more than just that. Scripture talks about it in the book of Proverbs, but specifically here in Proverbs 23:2 it says this: "**And put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony.**" That is how serious this is. That verse is not saying put yourself to death, but it's saying put your desires to death. Don't take more than you need.

Today, we're in-between two sermon series. We're in-between finishing up 1 Peter, and then we're going to be moving into our Christmas series in a couple of weeks. But before we move

into our Christmas series two weeks from now, we wanted to address the number one lie of this season. While this is my favorite season of the entire year, there is a primary lie that's being told to us during the Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and Christmas season. And this is the lie we want to address, it's this: you need more. You need more food; you need more money; you need more gifts; you need more toys; you need more. Today we're going to talk about how we *don't* need more. We don't need more!

JP asked me to speak, and I just want to speak out of what the Lord's been teaching me. I have been reading through the book of Exodus, and it's really come alive in a fresh way for me. We're going to be in Exodus 16 today. If you have your Bibles open them up to Exodus 16. The Bible goes Genesis, Exodus, and then 16 chapters later you're going to get to Exodus 16. And just to set up what happened in the 15 chapters before this, God's people were enslaved in Egypt for hundreds of years. They prayed and prayed for freedom, eventually, God raises up Moses and sends him to go to Pharaoh and says "Let my people go." Pharaoh says "No." And then God brings plague after plague after plague to break the will of Pharaoh, until Pharaoh eventually says "Fine! Get out of here. Go free!" But as God's people are walking into freedom, Pharaoh changes his mind, he sends his whole army to track them down. And once he's chasing after them, God parts the seas, so that the Israelites can walk through the sea on dry ground. But then once Pharaoh and his army get into the sea, God brings the waves crashing over them, and God defeats Pharaoh and his army.

This is really where we pick up on this story. The Israelites have just walked into freedom, and once they've walked into freedom, they're singing and dancing and praising, until they get hungry. Until it seems like they don't have all they need. Let's see what happens next. Chapter 16, verse 1, it says this: **"The whole Israelite community set out from Elim."** Now we missed this, but Elim, in chapter 15, it says it was a beautiful place. There were pools of water, there were lots of palm trees, it was really paradise. Now they're walking more into the desert. They **"set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin."** Now this is not a name that means sin like as we know it. It's really just short for Sinai, that's all it is. **"Which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. ² In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³ The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."**

There are a few things I want to teach you about these first 3 verses, a couple of things I want to point out. The first thing I want to point out is, I want to go back to Exodus 2, because when they're enslaved, it says this about their emotions, their feelings towards God. Chapter 2, verse 23, it says **"During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God."** So, they go from groaning to God, saying "God, would you please provide freedom? Would you set

us free from this slavery?” They're groaning to God, and then God gives them what they're asking for. And now, soon after, they're grumbling again. They're groaning, they get what they want, now they're grumbling again. They're just grumbling and groaning and grumbling and groaning because they have an insatiable thirst for more. They need more and more and more and more.

I think for some of us, the soundtrack that God hears from our lips is a whole lot of groaning and grumbling. You're asking Him to provide, and then He provides, and then soon after you're grumbling once more, because we have an insatiable thirst for more. Enough never really seems to be enough. Because it's so easy for us to think, just like the Israelites, if I just had more than what I have, then I'd be happy. And in fact, that's what we see here in the passage. Looking at it verse 3, they said this: **“³ The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the LORD’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted.”** And see, the Israelites, they actually did have access to food in slavery. Think about the Passover meal, for instance, each family was able to have access to a meat and bread. But I think they're misremembering some things. Because you see here, they're going “Man, remember back then? Remember when we had all the food we wanted? Remember how much happier we were back then than we are right now?”

I think this is an important lesson for us. Whenever we lack provision, we're prone to make an idol of provision. Whenever we lack provision, we're prone to make an idol of provision. We think “Man, if I just had *that!* If I just had *that*, that would meet all my wants, needs, and desires. If I just had *that* I'd be happier.” That's what the Israelites were doing here. I think that's what we do in our life as well. In fact, fill in this sentence for yourself: “I'd be happier if I had ____.” If you're like me, man you know what you would fill in that blank with. What would you fill in that blank with? “I'd be happier if I had ____.” What is that for you? For me, I could tell you a lot of things. One of the first things that comes to mind though is a better car. I have never liked my car. I don't like my car. It feels small; I don't like my car. And yet, the car drives fine. And many times, whenever I see someone else driving a nicer car, a bigger car, I just think “Man, I'd be happier if I had *that* car or *that* truck. Here's the reality; if I had that car or that truck, I would not be as happy as I think I would be. And here's the reality; if you had whatever you filled in that blank with, you probably would not be as happy as you think you would be, because that thing cannot make you ultimately happy. That thing cannot ultimately bring you joy. That thing is not ultimately what you actually want! But so often we think “If I just had that thing, if I just had more of that thing than I'd be happy,” because we have an insatiable thirst for more.

We see that from the Israelites here as well. But the biggest problem here is not that they wanted more, the biggest problem here in these first 3 verses is this: the Israelites didn't believe that God would provide what they need. They said, “We're going to die, it's hopeless, let's go back.” In fact, they're saying, “I would rather be under the authority of the Egyptians than under the authority of God.” That's really what they're saying here. They're saying, “Whenever we were

underneath the Egyptians, they gave us what we needed.” Now, whenever we’re seemingly under the authority of God, it doesn't seem like He's giving us what we need, and this is the first thing we can learn from this passage, I think the same can be true of us, is this: we doubt that God will provide what we need.

1. *We doubt that God will provide what we need.*

Now think about how crazy this is for the Israelites to doubt that God is going to provide what they need. You see, the Israelites, they were enslaved in Egypt for hundreds of years, and they pled with God, they begged God. They said “God, would you please provide freedom? Would you make a way out for us?” So, God calls to Moses; shows up in the form of a burning bush, and says “Moses, go to Pharaoh and say, ‘Let my people go.’” Moses goes to Pharaoh and says “Let the people of God go.” Pharaoh says “No.” God brings plague after plague after plague. God breaks the will of the Egyptians so that finally Pharaoh let's God people go. So, God's people plead for freedom and God provides freedom. And they're walking into freedom, now they're on the banks of a sea, only for them to look up and see Pharaoh and his armies chasing them down. They're assuming that they're going to die. And they go “God, would you please make a way out!” They're pleading for a way out. So, God splits the sea so that the Israelites can walk through on dry ground; only for the Egyptians to get into the sea, and the waters to close over them, and they perish. And the people of God plead with God for Him to make a way, and then God provides a way. And then, we didn't read this, but at the very end of chapter 15, the people of God come upon a pool of water. This pool of water; it says it's bitter, so that they couldn't drink the water. So, they plead with God, and they go “God, would you please give us water to drink?” So then God takes that bitter water, and He makes it sweet so they can finally drink the water. And the people of God plead with God for water, and then God provides water. And now they go “God, why aren't You providing for us?”

I tell you what, I can't wait to get to Heaven. I just want to get with some of these guys and go “Guys, what were you thinking? Why did you doubt God's provision, when all He did was provide?” Here's the reality; if your life was written down in a book, and the Israelites were reading about your life, I think they might look at you in this season of your life, and they go “Hey, why are you doubting God's provision, when all He's done is provide?” I mean think about that time when you were in high school, you were all alone; you're on your knees at the edge of your bed, and you're going “God, I feel so lonely and broken in this season, would you just give me a friend? Would you just give me somebody?” And then He provided you that friend. And then later you're praying “God, would you please give me a spouse? It feels like everybody else has a spouse, everybody else is getting married, would you please provide a spouse?” And then He provided you a spouse. And then you're begging to God “Would you please give me a job? Would you please show me what I should do with my career? Would you show me what to do? Would you please give me a clear career path?” And then He gave you a clear career path. And then you're going “God, would you please provide a house? This market is

so difficult, would you please provide a house for me?" And He provided a house for you. And then you're going "God, would you please provide children? We so badly want children!" And then He provided children. And then you're going "God, would you please provide the finances for a larger house? Our family is growing, would you please provide the finances for us to buy a bigger house?" Then He provided you the finances for you to move into a bigger house. And now you're in this next season of your life, and you're like "God, I'm afraid you're not going to provide for me in this season." Meanwhile, you look at the rest of your life, and all it's been is season after season after season after season of His provision. So, let me ask you a question: What else does He need to do? What else does He need to do to convince you that He will provide for you? What else does He need to do?

Maybe you're sitting there thinking and you're going "Nate, but I have begged with God for a spouse. He has not provided a spouse." That story of provision, that's not my story of provision. Or, you're going "Nate, we have begged for children and we still don't have children." That story of provision, that's not our story of provision. And while I don't know your story, I do know that this is a part of your story for provision; that for God so loved you that He provided, He gave Him up, His one and only Son so that you would not perish, but have everlasting life. Let me ask you another question, "What else does He need to do? What else does God need to do to convince you that He wants to provide for you?" You see, the issue is not that He won't provide what we need, the issue is we don't think He's provided enough.

And the first point of this passage; the first thing we can learn is point number one: We doubt that God will provide what we need. Verses 1-3, the Israelites are doubting and they're grumbling with God, and then God responds by saying this in verse 4: **"4Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. 5 On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days." 6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, 7 and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" 8 Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."**

I'm going to skip a couple of verses because they essentially just repeat what we just said. Skipping ahead to verse 13: **"13 That evening quail came and covered the camp."** So, this bird comes and covers the camp so the people of God can eat meat. And some people believe that since the quail came at night the Israelites called it NyQuail. *(Audience laughs)* **"And in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14 When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. 15 When the Israelites saw it, they said**

to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶ This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Everyone is to gather as much as they need.’” God has them. “Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.” At that time, an omer wasn’t necessarily an exact measurement, it was almost like saying “Hey, take a bundle, or take a handful.” So, if I took a handful of something and you took a handful of something it would look different. Even later in this passage it says some took more and some took less. It really just is saying “Hey, take a provision; take a handful of something.” So each morning God is providing bread on the ground, and then we get more details of it in verse 31. It says, “³¹ The people of Israel called the bread **manna.**” Which actually means “What is it?” The people of Israel saw the bread on the ground and they said “Manna!” Which is their word for “What is it?” And that’s how it got its name; manna means “What is it?” “**It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey.**” So in the desert where there is no food, God provides food. You know, this is kind of what He does. One of the names in Scripture for the Lord is Jehovah-Jireh; which means “The Lord will provide.”

See when the Israelites- they were enslaved in Egypt for hundreds of years, and it seemed like they’d be stuck there for the rest of their life, God provided freedom. Now they’re in the desert, and it seems like there is no food anywhere; they feel like they’re going to die, and then God provides bread for them to eat. Later, there was a giant that raised up against the armies of Israel, and the armies of Israel thought they’d be taken out by this enemy, but then God provided a shepherd boy with a sling. And when there was a fire that was heated seven times the normal temperature, and it sure seemed like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego we’re going to die, God provided a fourth man in the fire. When it seemed like Haman was going to convince King Xerxes to kill all of the Jewish people, God provided a courageous woman named Esther. When it seemed like Jonah was going to die because he was on a boat, and it was shaking and shifting in the storm, and he jumps overboard, God provided a big fish to swallow him up. And when God had gone silent from His people for 400 years, and it seemed like He had forgotten about them, He provided a baby in a manger. And when it seemed like we were going to suffer the consequences of our sin for the rest of Eternity, God provided His Son as a sacrifice. And when it seemed like death was going to defeat even Jesus, He provided an empty grave. You see, provision is kind of His thing. Jehovah-Jireh: “The Lord will provide.” And it’s not just that He will provide; do you believe this? He *wants* to provide. He *wants* to provide for you. Which is the second thing we can learn in this passage.

2. *God desires to provide for His children.*

We don’t just see this here. Matthew 7, Jesus says “¹¹ **If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!**” You know, this Christmas I am far more excited to give gifts to my daughter than I am to receive gifts. Because here is the reality; for Christmas, I’m

probably going to get a shirt, or a couple shirts, which is great! Just not the most exciting thing in the world. Because I have all I need, I don't need more. I'm so much more excited to give her a scooter, that's going to be more fun for me at Christmas, to give her (now don't tell her that that's coming, don't ruin that for me). He wants to provide for you. He wants to provide more than you could even ask or imagine. And He did then, and He can do it now.

In fact, let me tell you a story, a true story. There was a man named George Mueller, and he was a pastor who felt called to start an orphanage. He left his church and then he started this orphanage, where over the course of time he would go on to take care of 10,000 children. At one point during that orphanage, there were 300 kids living in the orphanage. He woke up one morning, and one of the women who helped run the orphanage, came to him and she said, "Hey George, the kids are all dressed and ready for breakfast; the problem is there is no breakfast. We have nothing in the kitchen; I have no food to give them." And she said, "What should we do?" He said, "Do what we always do! Have the kids sit in the dining room where they always sit. Let's do what we always do." And so the kids all sat down. They saw all the plates, they saw their utensils, but they didn't see any food. And then George got up at the head of the table and he said "Let's pray: Father thank you so much that you are our Provider, that you have always given what we need and you will always give us what we need." He said "Amen." There's no food. But a couple moments later, there's a knock at the door. George goes and opens the door, and it was a man who ran a bakery in town. And he said "George, I don't know how to describe this to you, but last night I was lying in bed and I couldn't sleep. I was tossing and turning and I just felt like God told me to make you a bunch of bread, and here is what's awkward; I don't even really know if you need it. Do you need it?" George said, "I think we need it." He goes and lays out the bread for all 300 of the kids. And as soon as he gets done doing that, there is another knock at the door. He goes to open the door and it's the town milkman, and the milkman goes "Hey, this is wild, but my cart just broke down in front of the orphanage, and by the time the cart is fixed the milk will all be spoiled, so I can't go out and deliver it. So, I don't know if you need this, but would you want the milk for free?" He said, "I think I do." And he laid out the milk for all 300 of the kids; and Jehovah-Jireh, the Lord, provided.

Now here's the truth, the first time I heard that story without researching it, my initial reaction was "I don't think that happened." (Spoken in a quiet voice) Maybe you're sitting here right now, you're going "I don't think that happened." (Spoken in a quiet voice) Well lean into that. Sit there with that emotion. Sit there with that response. Because, what that response is telling you, is it's telling you, "Sure, I believe he did it in Exodus 16, I don't think he can do it now." Friends, what God did then, He can do now, and He even wants to do it now. Because the second thing we can learn from this passage is this: God desires to provide for His children.

Now I want to get to the part of the passage that is maybe the most important for us today. God has given them manna to eat each morning, and then this happens next. Verse 19, it says this: **"¹⁹ Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning."²⁰ However, some**

of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them. ²¹ Each morning everyone gathered as much as they needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away. ²² On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much—two omers for each person—and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. ²³ He said to them, “This is what the LORD commanded: ‘Tomorrow is to be a day of sabbath rest, a holy sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.’”

Skipping a couple of verses to verse 27: “²⁷ Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none. ²⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, “How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions?” God tells them “Hey, only take what you need for each day.” So it’s not like Moses could just keep stockpiling manna every single day until he got enough to bake ba-manna bread. That’s not what he could do. (*Audience laughs*) That’s the last one, I promise. But God is saying “Hey, I’m going to give you daily bread. I’m going to provide for you each and every day; you don’t need to take more.” And then what happens next? They took more! Some of them paid no attention to God’s instruction and they kept extra in their pockets, they kept extra in their cabinets, and then they woke up the next morning, and it stank! Why did they take more? There is really only one explanation for why they took more than what they needed for that day. It’s because they thought, “What if the Lord doesn’t provide tomorrow? What if He doesn’t come through? What if He doesn’t do what He says He will do?” So they took more.

But there is another act of disobedience here. Moses says “On the sixth day, take double, because the Lord wants you to rest on the Sabbath day. Nevertheless, some people, although they had gathered on the sixth day; although they had what they needed for that seventh day, they went out to gather still more. Why? Because they thought “More is more. I think I’d feel just a little bit better if I’d have just a little bit more in my pantry. I’m going to go out and take more.” And although they had all they needed, they thought they needed more. And eventually God looks at them exhausted and He just goes “How long will you refuse to keep my commandments? How long will you fail to trust me?” Which, point number three, the third thing we can learn from this passage is:

3. *We take more provision than what we need.*

You know, this teaching on daily bread, isn’t just found in Exodus 16. Not just for the Old Testament, Jesus says it to us in Matthew 6. As He’s teaching the disciples how to pray, He’s teaching them the Lord’s prayer. He says “¹¹ **Give us today our daily bread.**” In other words, we should live today with the expectation that God’s going to provide tomorrow.

So how are you doing? How are you doing with what the Lord has provided you? My guess is- I know I do- my guess is, many of us look like the Israelites. We look like we're storing up for some sort of hibernation or something. And God is going "How *long* will you fail to trust me? What else do I need to do?" You see, when it comes to money, I'm a saver. I would prefer to really save every single dollar I have. I'm not a spender, I'm a saver. The Bible speaks to the wisdom in saving, especially Proverbs. It says it is wise to save. So it's not necessarily disobedient to save, but it can be. But it can be. And I'm not going to tell you how much that is for you. I don't think scripture even says "Hey, there's clear guidelines." But I think one of the best guidelines that scripture gives us, is actually right here in Exodus 16. I think this is how you can know if you have too much. You have too much if there isn't a use for what you have. If what you have is getting stinky, you probably have too much. And now I'm not even talking about necessarily having too much money. I've seen people with a lot of resources, use those resources really, really well. I've seen them open up their homes. I've seen them be generous with what they have. I've seen them have their resources, and put their resources to use. And I'm like "God, give them more! Keep giving them more! Because they're using your resources for your purposes." And I know people with less money, who every single dollar they make, stays with them. They have stuff stored up in their closets that is not being used.

So, it's not necessarily how much you have, but it's how you're using what you have. And the sin here for the Israelites was that of gluttony. It was taking more than what they needed. It was taking more than what they used; and I'm so convinced that the sin of gluttony is a sin that it's like the air we breathe here in nearly every single one of our lives. I'm telling you, one of my sins is that of gluttony; I eat more than I need. This weekend we were at Texas Roadhouse, and they brought by the bread with the cinnamon butter stuff, and we ate it- the basket. And they're like "Hey, you want another basket?" and I'm like "Of course I want another basket!" And we laugh at that, but I'm just like- keep eating and I'm not hungry. I think that's a sin. I think I sinned there. I think I save more than what I need to save. I think I just take more and more and more and more because it makes me feel safe; and here's what I've been convicted by this week, in this passage: when you have a lot of extra, it's a sign of a little faith. When you have a lot of extra, it's a sign of little faith. I think there are times for me God is going "Nate, how much longer will you fail to trust me?"

So how are you doing? How are you doing with what the Lord has provided for you? Because you see, God has said "You don't need more and more and more. I'm going to provide you bread day after day after day." So friends, are you living today like you expect God's going to provide tomorrow? And if for you, everything is stored and nothing is used, you probably have too much, and the stuff you have probably has you.

In summary,

1. We doubt that God will provide what we need.

2. God desires to provide for His children.
3. We take more provision than what we need.

And you know, I open with that story about a kid taking all of our Halloween candy, and I was telling a coworker that story this week; and he directed me to this video. Check out this video (Short video clip plays of a daughter and her mom trick or treating. The mom takes a lot of candy in a bowl, while the daughter is correcting her telling her she's taking too much and being bad.) It's frustrating when kids do that; it's *gross* when adults do. I hope you saw; I hope you heard what that daughter said, she's going "It's too much mommy, it's too much!" Our kids are watching how we use our resources. Our kids are listening to how we speak about our resources. Are they seeing and are they hearing from you a belief that God's got us? He's going to provide for us tomorrow. Or are they seeing hey, we need more and more and more and more, hey no one is going to look out for us except for us. We have to provide for ourselves. We need more and more and more and more. What are they seeing from you? What are they learning from you? Are they seeing and learning fear, or are they seeing and learning faith?

You know this week, as I was thinking about having more and more and more, I was reminded of my first job in high school, and the first paycheck I ever got. I remember looking at the paycheck, and then immediately going to Wells Fargo where my bank was, and I walked into the teller and I was like- I had very specific number. I said "Hey could I have \$10.34? The teller- it's unprofessional- but she goes "Hey, can I just give you \$10?" and I said "No, I need \$10.34." She goes "Hey, are you messing with me? Can I just give you \$10?" I'm like "No, I need \$10.34." And I needed \$10.34 because I had seen my paycheck, and I had realized what 10% of that paycheck was. And there wasn't even a doubt in my mind; in fact, I was excited to take that money and to give it to my church. Now, I get my paycheck, and I calculate and see what 10% is, and I go "Man, that's a bigger number." And I look at that number, and I just go "Man, if I give that, I can't have that, and that, and that." And that's maybe the point.

You know that story that I told about George Mueller with the orphans. I think we hear that story; I know I hear that story, and I'm like "That's right, I'm the orphan at the table, and I'm praying for God to provide for me." The reality is, for most of us- I know not all of us- but for most of us, man, He's already provided for you, more than you need. And in that story, you're not the orphan at the table; you're the baker, you're the milkman, you *have* more! You *have* extra! And now, in your relationship with God, you primarily don't need to ask Him to provide, you primarily need to ask Him, "Who can I provide for? I have all this stuff! God, who needs it? Who needs it? Whose needs can I meet with what you have given me? Who can I provide for with what you have provided for me?"

For Adalee and I, we have decided that the vast majority of our giving is going to be to Harris Creek, and that's largely because I'm on staff, and I kind of see how the money is used; and as an insider, I like the way it looks. In fact, you're going to see this in the next couple of weeks. I

just found this out this week actually; how much we have given to different ministries in our city, and different ministries across the globe. We're going to have those numbers for you in our year-end summary. I think you're going to be really encouraged with the ways we're handling our finances here.

We're trying to meet the needs of those around us. All the while, we still have needs here. There's a lot of them, but one of the most obvious ones, is last week we had 400 people in the commons. And it feels like we're capped out in terms of how many people we can reach with Jesus here in this building. And that's not like the most exciting thing in this world for me, I don't know about you. But we also don't necessarily know what to do. We're asking God, "God, would you make it clear about what we should do? Should we stay here, or should we move? Should we build?" We don't know, but we're asking God, "Would you please make it clear?" And I want to make it clear that this is not primarily a call to give to Harris Creek, I promise you that. This is primarily a call to say "Hey, live today like you expect God is going to provide tomorrow." This is a call to say, "Trust the one who owns the cattle on a thousand hills." This is a call to say, "Trust the one who provides bread in the desert." This is a call to say, "Trust the one who has provided for you, who is providing for you, and who *will* provide for you." Because when the Lord is your Shepherd, you will lack nothing. Let me pray we'd believe it.

Father, forgive us when we look and sound to you like spoiled kids. We have all the toys we need, all the stuff we could ever want, and we're like "Dad, I want more!" Father, would you convict us of that sin? Would you release the blinders on our eyes to see the ways in which we are gluttonous. In which we do want more and more and more. Instead, would you teach us to be content with what we have? And all the while, trusting that you're going to provide what we need every single day. And God, I do know that there are needs in this body. There are needs of people sitting in this room and watching online. I pray that you would provide those needs. That you would give them even abundantly more than they could even ask or imagine. So, then they could take what you have provided for them and go and be generous with it. And for those of us in this room who we have all we need; would we have an eagerness to provide for others. Not because we want to do good works, but because of what you've done for us. You took your one and only Son, and you provided Him for us, an atonement on the cross, so that we didn't have to suffer the punishment of our sins, but instead, we could live forever. You've provided more than we could even ask or imagine. Would we be eager to show you that we get it. So would your Holy Spirit prompt us this week and show us the people we need to provide for, and how much we need to give, and would we just get used to giving things up. Because when we give things up, we get to flex our faith and we get to say "God, I don't know what this is going to look like, but I trust that it's all in your hands. Father, we love you and trust you, but teach us to love you and trust you more. And above all else, the reason why we're here today, is we want to rejoice in the fact that Jesus is alive and with us, and for us, and it's in His name we pray, Amen.