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Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

A.W. Tozer said, “What comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

- Our Father in heaven // How do we relate to God?
- Hallowed be your name // Who is worthy of worship?
- Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven // What is the purpose of life?
- Give us this day our daily bread // Where do we turn to for provision?

Hindered Prayer

- 1 Peter 3:7 (ESV) “Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, [...] so that your prayers may not be hindered.”

What kind of prayers is God looking for?

- Isaiah 58:6-9a (NIV) “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.”
- Luke 18:13 (ESV) “But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’”

The Power of Prayer

- James 5: 16- 17 (ESV) “The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours [...]”

Goal of today: That we would learn to pray like Jesus when it comes to our physical needs.

Part 1: “Give” - look to God to meet our provisions...

James 1:17 (ESV) “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, ..”

- My own personal provision can be the competition for the Kingdom of God.
 - Matthew 6:33 (ESV) “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you.”
 - So what do I do when needs arise as I am seeking first His kingdom? Ask your Father.
 - James 4:2-3 (ESV) “You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your own passions.”
- Let’s get practical: The gap between thinking of praying and praying is as wide as the Grand Canyon.
 - #1 Pray! - Don’t just think about praying!
 - #2 Assess your motives... are you asking for something that is going to help you love God and other people?
 - I can’t think of any time where Jesus corrects someone praying about eloquence or how they phrased it, but that 1) someone didn’t pray or that 2) someone was praying with a wrong heart motive.

- Let's get practical - here is my challenge for you: In the morning, engage Jehovah Jireh (the LORD will provide // the LORD my provider) before you engage your phone.

Part 2: "Us" - helps us realize that we - as a family of believers - are in this together and we need each other.

- Give "Us" our daily bread. Not give "Me" my daily bread.
- Let's get practical - Look for ways to be generous by practicing seeing a situation through another person's eyes.

Part 3: "this day" - trust God to meet future needs in the future and today's needs today.

- One of the greatest traps when it comes to physical needs is hypothetical situations - all the what if's.
- Matthew 6:34 (ESV) "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."
- Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV) "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."
 - Tomorrow will have new troubles and will have sufficient new mercies... do you trust him?
- Let's get practical - Praise God before the breakthrough.
 - When you start to feel anxiety coursing through your veins, this is the practice of 1) thanking God for His character that applies to this situation, 2) thanking Him for past faithfulness, and 3) declaring what you know to be true of the future.

Part 4: "our daily bread" shows us that even for our most basic needs we are utterly dependent on God and interdependent on people.

What are you wrestling with?

- Possible Answers:
 - Yes now (Obvious, immediate, sometimes miraculous - Eutychus)
 - Yes in time (sometimes not-obvious, over time, God moving through natural events and supernatural events - story of Paul)
 - Yes in eternity
 - No, because He has a greater plan (Jesus at the Garden of Gethsemane)
- I challenge you to make a move!

For Small Group Discussion:

Opening Question: What were you most tempted to "store up" during 2020?

Main Point: When we worry too much about storing up or accumulating, it leads to selfishness. The more we rely on God, the more we get to rejoice when He provides.

Main Scripture: Matthew 6:11

Head Questions

- Where else in scripture do you see God providing for our daily needs?
- What daily needs do you have currently in your life?

Heart Questions

- When have you seen God's provision in your life?
- What role does self-reliance play in your life? Where do you get to exercise God-reliance?

Hands Questions

- What do you have an abundance of that brings you a feeling of security?
- How can your prayer life begin to reflect more God-reliance and less self-reliance?

Additional Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21, Deuteronomy 8:11-18, 1 Timothy 6:17

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