

# Weaving the Word

## *Our Daily Bread*

Part 38 – July 12, 2015

Welcome to where we're counting the cost to follow the One who paid the price



We're weaving together Jesus' 3½ year mission in the Gospels.

We're currently inserting Matthew's comprehensive, three-chapter transcript of the Sermon on the Mount, detailing Jesus' training of His 12 newly appointed, mostly teenage<sup>1</sup>, apprentices<sup>2</sup>.



And, we're examining the Lord's Prayer ... *Guide*. **This is a way to pray, not a prayer to recite, a memory aid to pray, pause, and personalize.**

Jesus said to them (*and to us*), *"do not use meaningless repetition,"* (Mat 6:7 NAS) but, *"Pray, then, in this way"*. (Mat 6:9 NAS)



**Meet your Papa with a childlike greeting.**

**Resubmit to His sovereign, heavenly authority.**

**Praise His holy love with a grateful heart.**

**Seek first *His* kingdom-purpose to save the lost.**

**Examine yourself for the fruit of His will.**



And with that, *it's time to eat!* How often do you think Jesus intended us to pray "in this way"? *This answers that: "Give us today our daily bread."*

**This may "win" for being the verse that we're *the most out-of-touch with!***



**We take our daily bread for granted.**

White bread, wheat bread, raisin bread, and corn bread; potato, banana, pumpernickel, and zucchini; buttermilk, sourdough, and naan; pita, pretzel, pizza, and pancake; bread *bowls*, bread *sticks*, bread *crumbs*, and bread *pudding*; rye bread, fry bread, crackers, croutons, and croissants; bagels, biscuits, and hotdog buns; focaccia, tortilla, lefse, melba, and multigrain!

<sup>1</sup> The age of Jesus' chosen 12 is discussed in detail in the sermon "God as My Witness" (March 8, 2015)

<sup>2</sup> Both Luke (6:13-20) and Matthew (5:1-2) specifically state that Jesus is teaching His 12 disciples.



You know what *they* prayed for? A *lump of dough to keep from starvin'*! Okay, that's a *bit* of an exaggeration. But, there were no preservatives added. **Bread was baked and consumed *daily*.**

**And, with no Unemployment Insurance, Social Security, Welfare, or Workers' Comp., this became a very literal prayer very quickly.**



This is a 2000-year-old baker's oven that was quite likely in use during Jesus' ministry. Volcanic ash buried it, in Pompeii, in 79<sup>AD</sup>.

And, when it was unearthed, there were still 81 loaves of carbonized bread in the oven! We even *know* who baked 'em!

See that stamp on the left side? It's a "baker's mark" (it tells the type of wheat used, and the name of the baker: "Ranius". He baked this daily loaf about *ten years* after Matthew recorded Jesus (in his Gospel) saying, "Give us today our daily bread."



You know *how* out-of-touch we are with this part of the prayer?

**We're *far* more likely to pray: "Help us today to *stay away* from the bread!"** We've *so bread fed* we're gluten intolerant!



"But, Jesus doesn't *just* mean bread; it symbolizes all of life's basic needs, like *food, clothing, shelter, employment, and money.*"

Same argument holds: **what the average American thinks of as a "basic need", Jesus' boys would've seen as a fantastical luxury!**



**We mostly pray for *wants* because we're just so *very blessed*.**

In fact, **praying for "daily bread" would be asking God to *give us less!* Which is probably not a bad request.**

Look at this model prayer from Proverbs:



Give me neither poverty nor riches, but **give me only my daily bread.** Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God. – Proverbs 30:8-9 NIV

**Could you pray this prayer?**

It's easy to pray against poverty, but *prosperity?!!*

**Would you be willing to honestly ask God to protect you from any riches, success, or fortune that distracts your devotion?** Here's a little secret: He often does without us even asking!

But, **unable to recognize the blessing, and unwilling to trust in His perfect love and compassion, we often whine for *more bread*.**

So, how do bread-blessed folks like us, personalize *this portion* of the Lord's Prayer Guide?

Two ways:

**1. Give us today our daily *gratitude*.**

Moses warned God's people who were entering the Promised Land ...

When you have eaten and are satisfied, **praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you**. Be careful that you **do not forget the Lord your God**, [In what way?] **failing to observe his commands** ... Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down ... and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and **you will forget the Lord your God** [In what way? You will fail to observe His commands] ... **He gave you manna to eat** [for their daily bread] ... [And] You may say to yourself, "**My** power and the strength of **my** hands have produced this wealth for me." [My, My, this relates to us!] But **remember the Lord your God**, [In what way? By observing His commands] for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth ... – Deuteronomy 8:10-18a NIV condensed

**To work, act, think, create – to inhale each breath – is a gift!** And, **to not regularly recognize this is the *most basic* of sins**. So, **are you grateful? Daily?**

**Or, have you forgotten the Lord your God?**

"In what way?" By failing to observe His commands. "*But, don't most of those pertain to the Old Testament?*" Some do. But, many transcend. A *teacher* of the Law once asked Jesus which of the Law's commands were the greatest.

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: '**Love your neighbor as yourself.**' There is no commandment greater than these." – Mark 12:29-31 NIV

**Our gratitude to God is revealed by our compassion to others.**

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as **a fragrant offering** ... – Ephesians 5:1-2a NIV

[However] If anyone turns a deaf ear to **the law**, [like loving our neighbors as ourselves] **even his prayers** [like, "give us today our daily bread"] **are detestable**. [They literally stink to high heaven!] – Proverbs 28:9 NIV

**2. So, we best be praying: Give us today our daily *compassion*.**

Remember God's position on hoarding daily bread (i.e. manna)?



Then Moses said to them, “No one is to keep any of it until morning.” 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. [Apparently, God said, “Hmm; I know man; maggots won’t be enough – we better make it **really stink too.**”] - Exodus 16:19-20 NIV

Did you know that **some maggots are red?**



**Know what it stunk like? Death.**

Maggots excrete ammonia to defend their treasure from the less fortunate (like competing bacteria). No food, no smell. But, give ‘em a decomposing pile of putrefying rot and they start greedily excreting a sickening stink. **It gives the stench of death and refuse that certain *je ne sais quoi!***

Bluebottle Fly larva (a.k.a. maggot)

Now, **if we hoard our daily bread and abundant blessings, bestowed on us by God, they’ll become infested in very much the same way.**

Only ... **guess who the big stinking maggots are!**

... how much less man, who is but a maggot ... – Job 25:6a NIV

Which is why Jesus is prophetically depicted crying out ...

“But I am a worm and not a man ...” – Psalm 22:6a NIV

He had to become one of us in order to die for us.

The term used for “maggots” in the manna, and the prophetic “worm” of Psalm 22:6 is the same word: *towla* [toe’LAH]. **It’s translated about eight times as worm or maggot** (depending on the Bible version) **and about 34 times as ... scarlet.**

Though your sins are like **scarlet**, [Towla; worms; maggots; dye made from crushing the red ones] they shall be as white as snow ... – Isaiah 1:18b NIV

**If I pray, “Give us today our daily bread” ... and, I know that I’ve been blessed with more than enough for today ... and, I know that some of “us” don’t have enough ...**

**And, still I pray, “Give us today our daily bread” ...**

**Yet, fail to see myself as God’s possible means of answering my own prayer ...**

**Then, I offer up my prayer with a certain ... *je ne sais quoi!***