
The Writer's Inkhorn

Volume 13, Issue 2

Continuing Reflections on the Word for Your Personal Growth in Christ

Mar/Apr 2020

Daily Bread Faith

Suggested Reading: Matthew 6:5-13



Give us this day our daily bread. (Matt. 6:11)

The verses surrounding what we call "The Lord's Prayer" as well as the prayer itself are some very telling admonitions on what should be the attitude of our prayer life, the care to be given to our prayer time, and what is to be the content of our prayers. However, the point of this piece is not to re-instruct you on prayer. *For that*, we can just read the *Lord's* words again, and give them careful and frequent consideration, so that our prayers are acceptable to God.

Here, though, reconsider these words: "*Give us this day our daily bread.*" It is such a simple statement. I am reminded of a most wonderful experience at a women's retreat, when, during the closing Sunday morning worship service, one of the mothers present shared an insight the Lord had given her relative to these words. I paraphrase her here: "*We do not eat bread by the loaf; we eat it by the slice.*"

Did you get that? Read it again. What does Jesus want us to do? What does He want us to become accustomed to doing? **Trusting.** That's it, plain and simple. God wants us to trust Him to provide those things that we need *as* we have need of them. That's what "**daily bread**" is all about.

Recall an instance in the Old Testament where God wanted His people to trust Him for their daily bread (Exodus 16:10-35). The Israelites, as they sojourned in the wilderness, were

provided with manna, bread that literally came down from heaven on a **daily** basis.

God told Moses to tell the people to gather only what they needed for each day. However, out of their lack of trust for God's daily provisions, some gathered more than they needed, with the hopes of storing it for the next day. When they did so, it bred worms and stank.

However, for the Sabbath day, they were to gather twice as much on the day before so that they would not have to gather it on the Sabbath, since they were not to do any work on that day. That was God's command, and when they gathered twice as much in preparation for the Sabbath, there were no worms and no stench. Isn't that amazing?! This was a true lesson in trusting God for their daily bread according to **His** instructions.

Ah, the questions that come to my mind! Do I gather and buy more than I can use in a reasonable amount of time? Do I cook more than I can consume and then let it go to waste? Do I tend more toward overspending and wastefulness than toward moderation and good stewardship? Does not the Lord's word command me to be temperate in all things?

As we are in the middle of this horrific pandemic of COVID-19, the coronavirus, the

questions posed at the end of the previous paragraph seem appropriate in lieu of the actions of many over these past weeks.

When Fear Overrides Faith

When we allow ourselves to become overwhelmed by the uncertainties of life as it is happening day-to-day, many of us become filled with fear. By now, we have all seen the behaviors that have been broadcast of people buying and buying in large quantities, looking out only for themselves and their own families because they were panicking about there not being enough toilet paper and paper towels, sanitizers, water and other necessities to go around.

Yes, we were taught in school that “self-preservation is the first law of nature.” That is, that “all living things prioritize their own survival above all else and will do whatever is necessary to stay alive.” But following this to its natural conclusion has all types of social-societal and economic implications and impact.

Some of us hoard more than we need for ourselves, on a regular basis anyway, leaving others without enough, or to get by on whatever they can scrounge up. So this kind of selfish behavior becomes even more pronounced in the midst of an event like this pandemic.

From where does this kind of behavior stem? While I am neither a psychiatrist nor a historian, I think it is a question to which serious thought should be given. I can speculate from a natural perspective but that must give way to what I know to be true from the word of God.

For some, I suspect that growing up in poverty and lack can greatly impact us in that we have

a greater need to control our circumstances now that we can afford to buy and “own” more. And before we know it, we own more than what we can use and we have not even realized that the underlying cause is *fear* that we may at some point not have enough, again. Instead, we think that what we are doing is all about being comfortable when it really is not.

Bigger Barns

There is a parable that Jesus told that shows us our true selves although we might think He was talking about someone else. You can find the story in Luke 12:16-21, but there is a point in the story where the man has more than he needed, so he increased his *storage* space. That was *his* solution. Not sharing what he had, since he had more than he could use, but pulling down the old barns and building bigger ones. Look specifically at verses 17-18a:

And he thought within himself, saying, “What shall I do, because I have no room to store my crops? And he said, “This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater;”

Author Robert Fulghum stated that one of the fastest-growing investment opportunities of our time, believe it or not, is off-premise storage spaces. I'm sure you've seen them in your neighborhood. Initially I think they were meant for people in transition. But now it seems to be the thing to have for those of us who have more than we know what to do with. As we accumulate too much for our comfortable living spaces, we rent "bigger barns." But we should be warned by John's words:

But whosoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother have need, and shuts up his bowels of compassions

from him, how dwells the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth. (I John 3:17-18)

When we hoard, we often leave the most vulnerable in our societies to fend for themselves: the poor, the sick, and the elderly. According to a recent point-in-time national estimate, there are nearly 568,000 homeless people in the United States on any given night. Do you wonder what happens to them, especially, in times of crises like these? What health and well-being resources are allotted for them?

What happens to seniors who do not have families to care for them, and who become easy prey for evil scammers seeking to take advantage of them and their resources? What is our responsibility in this regard, for those we know and to which we have ready access via our churches and/or communities? What can we do more to be our elders' keepers?

Fear causes us to heap to ourselves what we *want* without regard for how it impacts what others *need*. Faith causes us to develop an abundance mindset, which leads us to know that we will always have enough to share with others, no matter what comes or what goes.

Fear brings torment as it causes us to dread being "found out." We give little to nothing at all, saving our excess "for a rainy day." Faith says, "My God will supply my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Faith says, when I give, it will be given back to me good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over. Faith helps me understand the basis of fear of lack, and reminds me that God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and of a sound mind, and then checks my spirit when I seem to forget.

And Then There's Greed!

As if the heart-rending stories of the daily death toll are not enough, the more gut-wrenching stories of greed and people taking advantage of this pandemic and other people's suffering to make tremendous profits just to fatten their own pockets seem unconscionable. I read two different stories in the *New York Times* this past week that frankly astounded me as to how low some will go, and act as if they are not doing anything wrong.

This is from the March 14th article:



He has 17,700 Bottles of Hand Sanitizer and Nowhere to Sell Them

Amazon cracked down on coronavirus price-gouging. Now, while the rest of the world searches, some sellers are holding stockpiles of sanitizer and masks.

The article states that in early February, when the story broke of the spread of the virus in China, Mr. Colvin saw an opportunity to capitalize, so he and his brother started driving across country buying up whatever supplies they could find, many in remote locations and communities, and then marked up prices considerably.

The following is from the April 2nd article:

A Hoarder's Huge Stockpile of Masks and Gloves Will Now Go to Doctors and Nurses, F.B.I. Says

The stockpile, slated for medical personnel in New York and New Jersey, includes **192,000** N95 respirators, **130,000** surgical masks and



nearly **600,000** medical-grade gloves, the authorities said. They said they also had recovered surgical gowns, disinfectant towels, particulate filters, hand sanitizer and spray disinfectant.

The man who was charged with lying to federal agents, Baruch Feldheim, 43, charged a doctor \$12,000 last month for a large order of masks, gowns and hazmat gear at a **700 percent markup**, according to the F.B.I. ...

Where is the moral conscience and the compassion that we would expect from **all**, and not just **some** of our citizenry? And I am not even talking about salvation, here, but just human decency. As so many of us around the globe are praying for God to spare us and turn this thing around, others of us are not getting the picture and have taken this as another opportunity to profit off of the pain and suffering of others. God help us. Pray!

But I dare not end on such a sore note. I remain hopeful. Many of you, my readers, are not on Facebook so I'll share my post from a week ago, to encourage you to stay the course.



[Mary Webster Moore](#)

April 1 at 9:51 PM

****Long Post Alert****

Encouragement to Do Our Part.

I left home today for the first time in two

weeks, for a **very** short period of time. I drove by the post office to drop bills and some cards in the mailbox **from the car**, then by two banks to deposit a check at one and pay a bill at the other, again **from the car** through the ATMs. I came straight back **home**. I came near no one and saw no one except in passing.

Obedience can **be** a sacrifice, but I know that the life I save may be my own. It is **not** killing me to shelter in place. I **know** how to "Get some place and **sit down!**" like the old folk used to tell us when we were doing too much. Ten years ago I was prepared for this time as I learned to **sit still** and **heal** for **seven weeks** after that horrific car accident.

I am reminded of a time when God testified of the stubbornness of His people. Listen at these words: "*For thus says the Lord God...In returning and rest shall you be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength: but you would not.*" (Isaiah 30:15, NKJV) But they would not! Imagine that!

I know this has been an unbelievable interruption in life as we once knew it, and the losses of life and livelihood will be staggering at the end of this, but we will make it through. We have come through many types of tragedies in the past and the resilience of the human spirit and the strength of a heavenly Father who cares for us, saw us through. He will do so again.

Look for signs of hope and brightness as we wait. What positive things do you see happening? Turn off the negative noise for some moments and focus in on the good that is occurring. There is **always** good happening, even in the midst of our pain and sorrow, if we look closely enough. Keep praying, keep believing, keep trusting, and do as we are told. I just want us all to be well, as many as God will allow. And my prayer remains: **"Lord, give us this day 'daily bread' faith."**

Your Teacher and Sister,
Dr. Mary Webster Moore

