



Life of Christ

A study of the life and teachings of Jesus

Our Daily Bread

by Warren Gunderson

Give us this day our daily bread.—*Matthew 6:11*

Pastor Bronson's teaching today reminded me of the Israelite's journey from slavery in Egypt to the land of promise. During that migration, God proved over and over that He would sustain and protect their lives as they trusted in Him. God so much wanted them to depend on Him, as He abundantly provided food and water and caused their clothes and sandals to never wear out. Yet through all the miracles that God performed before their eyes, they still did not believe, and they didn't have faith. Why? Because they were focused on this world. But who could blame them? They were the product of 10 generations of slavery.

In that season of wandering in the desert, God proved to them why He is God and there is no other. God revealed to them how they must live differently from the nations around them. And as they lived life together—loving God and loving others—they could then reveal to the world how God would bless a nation who is obedient to the one true God.

And now we see in Matthew 6 that Jesus reminds the Jews of His day of the same importance of trusting God for our daily needs—our daily bread—just like the ancient Israelites trusted God for manna—their daily bread.

Within Jesus' miracle of feeding bread and fish to the 5,000, He plainly tells them He wasn't there just to perform miracles but to give of Himself for the sake of those who believed in Him. He wanted them to live differently by living in obedience to the words He shared with them. Here's what He said in John 6:35:

“Then Jesus declared, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty.’”

Jesus reminds His disciples to depend on Him to sustain them, for He is the Bread of Life—a radical saying! He did not want them to live from miracle to miracle but rather to live a life always dependent on the Father. He said that in His body was the bread of life, and that He would give them “living water;” and though these words were figurative, their meaning was real.

Jesus calls us to this same dependency on Him, just as He relied on the Father to sustain Him while on this earth. He didn't come doing His own will, “but the will of the Father” who

sent Him (John 5:30). He stated that what He was doing and saying was in obedience to what the Father was telling Him to say and do, through and in the power of the Holy Spirit. His life was sustained by the word of His Father, and in the end God placed His seal of approval on Him: "This is My Son, in Whom I am well pleased," (Matthew 3:17).

God is looking for people who—after receiving Christ as their Savior—are unwilling to be conformed to this world any longer but to be transformed, living a life apart from this world, looking forward to the return of His Son. There must be a definitive change, which happens when we consume God's Word, allowing it to transform us. Romans 12:1-2 challenges us with this:

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service in worship. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

My wife, Debbie, and I have been put to the test many times in regard to our faith. Sometimes we were wise enough to obey the lead of the Holy Spirit, like when we moved to Idaho from California. Debbie perceived His leading before I did and began to pray that God would reveal to both of us when that time would come. When it did, we began to inform our friends God's leading. Their reaction was mainly of disbelief that we were leaving, their opinion based on the fact that we had a thriving business, that we were well established in the church, that Debbie and I were involved in ministry, and that God was using us to impact many lives.

Many of them asked practical questions like, "Do you know anyone there?" "Is there a good job waiting for you?" "Where are you going to shop?" "Do you have any relatives there?" All to which we had no answer! We were amazed that few understood our obedience to God's leading.

When we moved to Idaho, I felt like I still needed to support my family, so I flew back and forth from our business in California to our home in Idaho for a few years! Near the end of that season, we really knew that God was telling me to let go of the business and trust Him to provide. You must know that this was very hard for me. Living by faith is not a cakewalk, but it is rewarding!

As I look back on that season, even though I had stepped out in faith, I had actually continued living by sight, by what I could control, and by what was expected of me. But once the decision to stop going to California and to trust God to provide for our needs was made, He did!

Our biggest lesson learned was that the enemy will always tempt us to focus on worldly expectations; and when we do, damage will happen. But God will walk patiently with us as we learn to release control and trust God.

God challenges us to not be absorbed—preoccupied, captivated, engaged, gripped, interested, immersed, enthralled, monopolized, distracted, or entertained—by this world so much that we fail to see or even recognize our Father. He is the One who provides, sustains, protects, shows mercy, gives grace, saves, and loves, and no one else!

Question In what area(s) of your life are you striving to find security and peace, but outside of God's provision?

Family Chat Discuss with your family how YOU as a parent have relied on the Lord as your security, to take care of your family, even to give you wisdom in parenting.

Take Action In that area you don't really believe God will take care of you, picture yourself handing it to God, and rest that He will provide for you.