



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Prayer Walk Mall Series, Lesson 23

Lesson Title: Daily Food Court – Praying for Provision

Take Home Point: Pray every day for physical needs – God will provide.

Warm-Up:

When I was young, it never occurred to me to wonder if my dad or mom would have food for us on the table. I wasn't afraid about it, and I just expected it would be there. Oh, I would ask if we could have something really special for supper or if we could go out to eat; neither of those happened very often no matter how much I asked! But I didn't ask them if they could possibly provide a scrap of food for me. At the same time, I knew people who had much less than we did, for whom enough to eat was sometimes a stretch. Seeing their circumstances always made me thankful that my parents provided as they did. And I would be sure to thank them. Now, with children of my own, I am very thankful that God not only provides my daily bread, but he also uses me to supply the needs of my children as well. And whether they ask or not, I find pleasure in their saying thanks. It teaches me to be sure to say thanks to God, too.

Read: Luke 11:3; Exodus 16:13-21; Philippians 4:19

Observation (What happened?):

What happened to the manna if someone tried to hoard it for another day?

How many of your needs will God meet through Christ Jesus?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does Jesus mean when he says "our daily bread?"

What do you think the Israelites thought and felt when the manna was there day after day?

Insight:

Did God deliver ready-to-eat manna as his people sat at their tables? Of course not. They had to gather what he provided. This was an important lesson for the Israelites and for us, as well. A friend of mine once said that what we really want is a "Bic" God who "works the first time every time" just to satisfy our needs as we see them. The Israelites were no different. They cried out to God for help, and he helped them – just not in a way they could ever have expected. No doubt they were thrilled to discover that manna on the ground every morning, especially since starvation in the desert was the alternative. It may seem a silly question, but why did God require them to gather the manna they ate? For the same reason he asks us to pray when he knows what we need. Our actions put "feet to our faith". We exhibit trust in God not just by praying, but also by acting on his promises. That strengthens our faith and opens the door for God to teach us of his care, his unfailing personal presence as we pray and believe.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How often do you pray for God to provide for your physical needs?

How do you show God that you trust him for your needs? When was the last time you thanked him for providing as he does for you?

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