

## Devotions with Matt

June 3, 2020

### OUR DAILY BREAD

Think back to some of the movies you enjoyed in your childhood. Which ones stand out to you? Some from my era include Jaws, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, The Bad News Bears and Benji. As I sit in front of my computer this morning reading through the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6, Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory keeps coming to my mind.

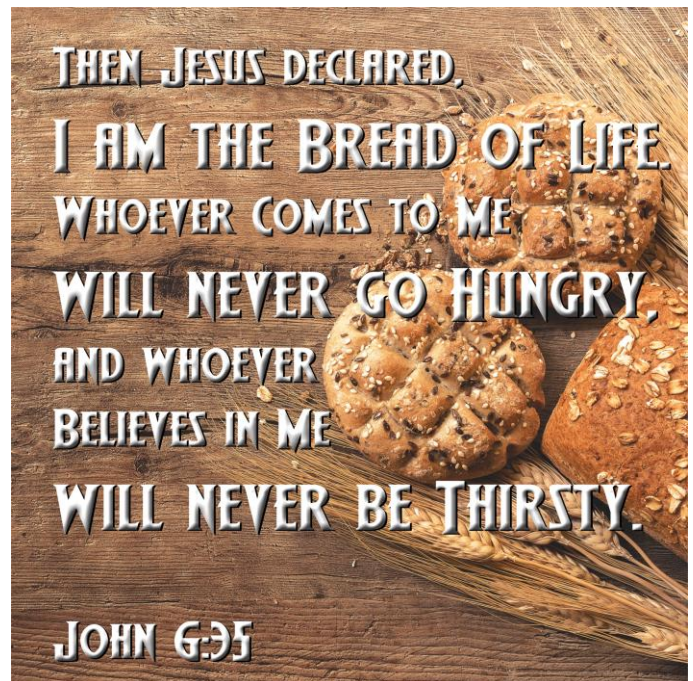
There is a part in that movie that stands out as I think about the verse in the prayer where Jesus teaches us to ask God for our "daily bread". It is the part where Veruca Salt demands her daddy buy her a goose that lays golden eggs that are in Willy Wonka's factory. But, the demand for the golden goose isn't enough as she thinks about it. She wants today, tomorrow and the whole world, and she wants it now. She is used to getting what she wants so she demands she gets it.

When Jesus teaches us to ask His Father in heaven for our daily bread He is not telling us to demand it. He is saying that God's generous blessings are there for us all to enjoy. This prayer is a prayer of trust and thankfulness in His generosity. It is the opposite attitude of Veruca Salt and her demand to have all her wants met. We ask God for daily bread knowing He will meet our needs.

A little further in the book of Matthew, Jesus is telling the crowd that had gathered around Him to not worry. This crowd would have known the stories of their forefathers out in the desert after God rescued them from slavery in Egypt. It is said that there were probably more than one million Jews that crossed the Red Sea that day safely to the other side. But once they crossed and looked ahead, all they saw was desert. There would be nothing for them to eat or drink along the way. What would they do? Did God send them into the desert, away from the Egyptians, only to die of starvation?

The crowd around Jesus that day would have known the rest of the story. God provided for His people. He provided quail in abundance, water from a rock and manna from heaven. He promised to take care of them and He did. He promised that they could trust Him and He proved faithful. When Jesus says in Matthew 7 for all of us to not worry- He means it. He is saying the same promises His Father made to the Jews in the desert He is making to us. He was faithful and trustworthy then and He is faithful and trustworthy now. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

When He says we should pray for daily bread, we should know we will get it. When He tells us to not worry as He will provide for our needs, we should know He will. This is called faith. Faith is not built out of nowhere, but rather on the promises, nature and character of God. It is not built up in us on sheer will power. Faith does not come from us, but from hearing the Word of God. It points us to Him and His faithfulness. It shows us He never lies and never breaks a promise. It shows us He is powerful enough to raise His Son Jesus from the grave. If that is not impossible for God- nothing is. If He can defeat sin and death, we can trust Him for our daily bread.



To pray for daily bread knowing He will provide for our needs is part of the new life we have in Christ. We no longer have to worry about what we will eat, what we will drink or what we will wear. If He provides those things for the birds of the air- He will provide them for us. We are now free to pursue the greater things. We can now let go of our frantic toiling, laboring and worrying. We can pursue love, peace and joy. We can live generously knowing that no matter what we give away, He will still meet our needs. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills- He has more than enough for all of us. We can trust Him to provide as He promises.

The real blessing in this new life of faith and trust in God is Jesus. When we ask God for daily bread we are also asking for Jesus. We are asking for both the physical and the spiritual. We are asking for both the temporal and the eternal. We are asking for the nourishment of our bodies, but also for the nourishment of our souls. When we ask God for our daily bread, we are not demanding anything. We don't come to Him in prayer with the attitude of Veruca Salt. We are not petulant children demanding anything out of entitlement. We approach The Throne of Grace with thankfulness and trust that God will provide for our needs. We are asking resting in His promises and His goodness.

"Give us this day our daily bread" is a reminder of Jesus. He is The Bread of Life. He is the sustainer of life and the nourisher of our souls. He is here with us now and will be for all eternity. In Jesus we find true life. When we partake of Him we will never go hungry again. He is the Rock from which the waters of life flow. He is the Manna from Heaven which sustains us. He is the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey. He is our daily bread and our Bread of Life.

**"Give us this day Jesus" is our prayer. He is truly all we need.**

**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. John 6:35**

In Christ,

Matt