

11.22.15 Primer

True and Better Manna (Moses)

The Point:

All that manna meant to the Jews in Moses' day and FAR MORE, Jesus means to us today.

Quote:

"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." — C.S. Lewis

Read:

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (John 6:25-35 ESV)

Summary from the ESV Gospel Transformation Study Bible:

Neither manna on the journey to the Promised Land in Moses' time (Ex. 16:13–18) nor barley loaves in the Promised Land in Jesus' time could satisfy the core hunger he came to satisfy. Too readily, we seek satisfaction from the bread of this world. When huge crowds followed him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus seized the moment to expose their self-centered motivation and to reveal more of his God-glorifying vocation.

Jesus provides a bread that leads to eternal life. But Jesus doesn't just provide this bread; he *is* this bread—the Bread of Life. This is the first of several "I am" statements by Jesus

throughout John's Gospel—each of which are reminiscent of the God who revealed his name to Moses as “I AM” (Ex. 3:14).

How can we acquire this life-giving bread? The only “work” that guarantees the possession of this redemptive manna is to believe in Jesus (John 6:29). The gospel sabotages any notion of legalism or performance-based acceptability with God. The only thing we bring to Jesus is our need. All we offer is the admission that we have nothing to offer.

Tragically, just as God's people grumbled over the provision of the first manna, so now, as he offered the eschatological bread from heaven, some in the crowd did the same (Num. 11:1–15; John 6:43). Oh, the patience and forbearance of our God!

Possible Questions for Discussion:

1. What was your big takeaway from this week's sermon?
2. Go through the passage and circle anything that is unclear, requires further study, or needs follow up questions. Work through these questions as a group?
3. As human beings, we are hungry for lots of things like food, power, success, comfort, money, etc. We were made to crave. We are constantly craving. What does the world around you tend to crave? Give examples.
4. What do you tend to hunger after? In other words, what do you crave?
5. The Bible has a word for this - idolatry. Define idolatry in your own words. Consider looking it up online or in a Bible dictionary if you are unsure what it means.
6. If we were made to crave, that means God put that in us as part of his design. Why?
7. What are we actually supposed to crave? How can we find true satisfaction in Jesus?
8. What are you craving and hungering after in your life today that needs to be pushed aside to make room for Christ? How can you take action steps to make that a reality?