

The Miracle of Manna
(Exodus 16: 1-21)

From victory (Red Sea) to bitterness (Marah)

Marah means _____.

A place on the life-map of each of us.

Elim, twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees

A welcome _____ after the difficult days. God does not multiply our Elims, for He cannot trust us there. (Psalm 23; Rev. 7:17).

It is my observation that the Lord never allows us to linger too long in Elim. **He summons us to go fourth, and going forth sometimes takes us into the desert.** (Psalm 32:8)

Moved away from Elim, led by the Lord, traveling through the wilderness of sin.

As they got into the wilderness, again they showed themselves for what they were, **faithless people who had not yet learned to trust the Lord.** (Isaiah 53:6)

Where is our wilderness of sin _____.

Though God had delivered them out of the bony hands of death, they could not believe that He could satisfy today's hunger.

(Isaiah 55:6-12)

“Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows...”

(Isaiah 53:4a)

Unbelief has a short memory, and discontent perverts our perspective.

They had forgotten their affliction – the affliction of slavery.

Isn't this a picture of human nature?

When they got liberty, they were ready to put their necks back in the yoke again in order that their stomachs might be filled.

The miracle of the manna (Exodus 16:4)

Here was a distinct act of God, a supreme act of grace.

A Token

The Israelites, as we are, are a people of, constant complaining, their faith was shallow, their trust was superficial, they were selfish, their stomachs prevailing over their minds and hearts.

What a token of the Lord's loving patience and long-suffering grace is provided in this picture.

No doubt the hearts of the Hebrews would quake when they were summoned to hear the voice of God – and His voice would ring out, **I have heard your moaning, I know your affliction, and I hear your murmuring.**

He knows us, because He lives within us.

Hear the heart of God is clearly revealed.

He sought to win them by His loving patience and His long-suffering love.

A Test

It was given daily, and only enough of it for the day's needs.

God's provisions are fresh every morning. The manna as a test, teaches us about habitual dependence. (v.12)

The gift of the manna was a continual training, and therefore a continual test of faith – disciplining us to be habitually dependent upon the Lord.

- Infinite love loves infinitely to be loved. He loves because He loves to be loved.
- He does it for His own sake. But, more, He does it for our sakes. That we may know the peace and the strength that comes from continual dependence upon Him. The joyful life is ours when we trust Him and see the truth of our trusting.

Yesterday's manna cannot be used as food for today.

It is there in the morning, and we can use it until evening; but tomorrow we'll have to gather it again.

- His mercies
- His blessings
- His strength
- His guidance
- His wisdom
- His Love
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Love in the family is like that.

The expressions of love, keeping love powerfully alive in our families, and other relationships, is a daily manna affair.

We have to make it fresh every morning.

- Love must be kept alive in word and deed daily

“The jungle, like a beast, waits to spring on a careless civilization.”

Faith can't coast. It's a daily thing.

Think about that in terms of God's forgiveness. Last month's forgiveness – even yesterdays forgiveness - is inadequate for today.

We can't store up forgiveness. An overall blanket of forgiveness is not extended to us by God. Forgiveness must be fresh every morning.

A Truth

Manna is given by God for a truth. In miraculous and transient form, the manna speaks God's eternal word. (Deut. 8:3)

“Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (Matt. 4:4)

There is a deeper truth yet. **The manna in the wilderness is also a “type” of Christ.**

Jesus claimed this Himself. (John6:27-35)

“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.” (John 6:35)

John 6:53-58 (read)

The manna as a type of Christ shows us that through Jesus Christ, God provides our deepest needs – daily.

- This provision of God in Jesus Christ is a *satisfying* provision. It is the only thing that will satisfy our eternal need.
- It is a *sufficient* provision. It is the only thing that can give us the salvation we desperately cry for.
- It is a *sustaining* provision. Sustaining not only today, but sustaining for eternity. “...if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever....” (John 6:51)

My Friend: I am asking you the most important question of your life. Your joy or your sorrow for all eternity depends upon your answer.

The question is: Are you saved?

Please do not leave here today, with your soul in such danger, without seeking one of us out to show you how you too can be saved.