

Our Daily Bread

Exodus 16

Verses 13-21

Their needs are provided by the immediate hand of God.

I. He makes them a feast, at night, of delicate fowl, feathered fowl

1. Ps. 78:27

2. *God gives us of the good things of this life, not only for necessity, but for delight, that we may not only serve him, but serve him cheerfully.*

II. Next morning he rained manna upon them, which was to be continued to them for their daily bread.

1. *They called it manna, manhu, "What is this?" Either, "What a poor thing this is!" despising it: or, "What a strange thing this is!" admiring it: or, "It is a portion, no matter what it is; it is that which our God has allotted us, and we will take it and be thankful," v. 14, 15.*

By this spare and plain diet we are all taught a lesson of temperance, and forbidden to desire dainties and varieties.

2. **They were to gather it every morning (v. 21),**

a. not to-day for to-morrow: let the morrow take thought for the things of itself. Matthew 6:34

b. Jesus seems to allude to this daily raining and gathering of manna when he teaches, Give us this day our daily bread. Matthew 6:11

(1.) **Wisdom and diligence in providing food for our families**

a) What God graciously gives we must industriously gather

b) with quietness working, and eating our own bread,

c) Not the bread either of idleness or deceit.

(2.) **Contentment with a sufficiency.**

He who gathers much has nothing over, and he who gathers little has no lack.

(3.) **Dependence upon Providence:**

Let no man leave till morning (v. 19), but let them learn to go to bed and sleep quietly, though they have not a bit of bread in their tent, nor in all their camp, trusting that God, with the following day, will bring them their daily bread." It was surer and safer in God's store-house than in their own, and would thence come to them sweeter and

fresher. Read with this, Mt. 6:25, Take no thought for your life, etc. See here the folly of hoarding. The manna that was laid up by some (who thought themselves wiser and better managers than their neighbors, and who would provide in case it should fail next day), putrefied, and bred worms, and became good for nothing. Note, **That proves to be most wasted which is covetously and distrustfully spared.** Those riches are corrupted, James 5:2, 3. Let us **set ourselves to...**

[1.] **Think of that great power of God which fed Israel in the wilderness, and made miracles their daily bread.** What cannot this God do, who prepared a table in the wilderness, and furnished it richly even for those who questioned whether he could or no? Ps. 78:19, 20. Never was there such a market of provisions as this, where so many hundred thousand men were daily furnished, without money and without price. Never was there such an open house kept as God kept in the wilderness for forty years together, nor such free and plentiful entertainment given. The feast which Ahasuerus made, to show the riches of his kingdom, and the honor of his majesty, was nothing to this, Est. 1:4. It is said (v. 21), When the sun waxed hot, it melted; as if what was left were drawn up by the heat of the sun into the air to be the seed of the next day's harvest, and so from day to day.

[2.] **To Think of that constant providence of God which gives food to all flesh, for his mercy endures for ever, Ps. 136:25.** He is a great house-keeper that provides for all the creatures. The same wisdom, power, and goodness that now brought food daily out of the clouds, are employed in the constant course of nature, bringing food yearly out of the earth, and giving us all things richly to enjoy.

Henry, Matthew, Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible, (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers) 1997.