

MANNA FROM HEAVEN

“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.’” Exodus 16:4

I’ve been thinking a lot about “manna” recently. You know...the miraculous bread that God rained down from heaven for Moses and the Israelites. Are you familiar with this account in the Old Testament? The story is about God’s people in the desert and they didn’t have anything to eat. The Lord had just miraculously delivered them in crazy, unusual ways. Like sending locusts and frogs and parting the Red Sea in half so His people could walk through on dry land. Amazing! And the Israelites were first-hand witnesses to all of this. I am tempted to believe if I saw miracles like that, I would have a rock-solid faith that would never waiver. Unlikely...

But here these people are...in the desert, after having walked through the Red Sea...and they are freaking out! They don’t have water and they don’t have food and they are impatient waiting for God to do something. The Bible says that they “grumbled.” In an instant, when fear gripped their hearts, they started doubting God and stopped trusting Him.

But God, in His mercy, sent a new, never-before-seen, miraculous food that rained down from heaven! I mean...WHAT? God is not limited by deserts or climates or governments or diseases. Nothing is impossible for Him!

But here was the kicker...you could only gather enough manna for ONE day. You couldn’t hoard it. You couldn’t “plan ahead” and take more than your family’s daily needs. Why in the world would God do that? Because...God wants to teach His children to be DAILY dependent on Him. Not to trust in manna that we CAN see, but to trust in the God that we CAN’T see.

And to be clear...there is a difference between inactivity and TRUST. Here’s what I mean... sometimes in defeat and exhaustion, we give up. It is a LACK of faith in God that causes us to be still, not whole-hearted dependence on the LORD. It’s not that we are trusting God; it’s that we want to numb our pain and fear so we do nothing. That’s not what God is talking about here.

The people were still to “go out” every day and gather. They were to walk in the instruction of the Lord. But God was not allowing them to see too far into the future. They were to do what the Lord instructed them to do DAILY...and...they were also to trust that God would take care of them in the future. This is the sort of dependent trust God wants to cultivate in His children.

How does this word apply to me today? In these very uncertain times, the rug feels like it has been ripped out from underneath us. Many of us don't know where our work is coming from next week or next month. We don't know where we are going to get everything we need for our families. We don't know if our loved ones will get sick. We are tempted to fear and worry and grumble.

But I want to encourage you to do what the Lord has called you to do today (go out, gather a “day's portion” and walk in the instruction of the Lord). Trust God for what you need tomorrow. Remember the wonderous works the Lord has done. Remember His character. Remember His power and strength.

Even Jesus reminds us of this truth when He was teaching His disciples to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread.” Matthew 6:11. In these uncertain times, we have a great opportunity to grow in our daily dependence and trust of the Lord. He will not forsake His children. Draw near to Him and he will draw near to you. We love our Kidz2Leaders Families and are praying for you!

Devotion by Toria Peterson, Kidz2Leaders Family Support Manager

For further study read Psalm 78 or follow this [link](#).

