

Sermon Reflections

Bread From Heaven. (Exodus 16:13-36)

God exposes the character of our faith through testing or trials. Learn now the character of true faith - what it looks like to depend on God.

1. Faith Relies on God's Provision for Today (vv. 13-21)

- Read the passage (start from v11).
- What does God's declaration of what He will do (despite their grumbling) teach us about His character?
- What was the people's response to the appearance of manna? God, in His omnipotence, could have provided a more familiar food; but what are some lessons He might be teaching His people by the unrecognizable provision?
- Describe how the Israelites were to collect the manna, from the passage. How did they disobey the Word of the Lord? What does their response reveal about their hearts? What was the result of their hoarding?
- How did God limit the abundance of the manna? How did this force the Israelites to rely on Him from day to day?
- List practical truths from scripture that remind us: 1) That hoarding is unwise and 2) That we can trust God to provide for our needs.
- Read Deuteronomy 8:3. Summarize the lesson that God was teaching the Israelites through this "manna" experience. List practical ways we can demonstrate a full reliance on God and His Word on a daily basis?

2. Faith Rests in God's Provision for Tomorrow (vv. 22-30)

- What command has God given to His people in this passage? What was the response of some (v27)? What does this show about their hearts?
- What is the purpose of God's command to "rest"? What is He trying to teach His people?
- Read Matthew 11:28-29. What does true rest in Christ look like for the genuine believer?
- Provide examples of how you have struggled with trusting in God's provision for the future in your life?
- From the sermon, two telltale signs that one is not trusting fully in Christ are self-righteousness and/or a nagging persistent guilt. List reasons why these indicate of a lack of trust in Christ?

3. Faith Recalls God's Provision from Yesterday (vv. 31-36)

- Describe the command of the Lord mentioned in verse 32. What was the purpose of this command? How did this "memorial" manna differ from that which was collected daily? Years later, how might this manna have served as a significant reminder of God's provision (and miraculous power)?
- List practical ways we can remind ourselves of God's provision in salvation.
- Meditate on the chorus to the song we often sing in church - "What a Savior". Sing it a few times together in a group setting as you reflect on how Christ has saved you.

*Savior you showed your love,.. defeated our sin,.. poured out your blood.
So we praise you,.. Lamb that was slain. We offer our lives to proclaim:.. "What a Savior."*