

The Way of Prayer: Part 3—Our Daily Bread

Text: Matthew 6:9-13

Warming Up

Questions:

1. *Tell us about the least dependable car you have ever owned.*
2. *What have you found to be dependable in your life? (In what ways?)*

Digging In

Read **Matthew 6:9-13**.

Questions:

1. *What do you find encouraging in this prayer?*
2. *What questions surface for you as you consider this prayer?*

Let's focus in today on verse 11, "Give us this day our daily bread." There is a lot of debate as to what the word for "daily" actually means. The options have been "daily", "tomorrow", "just enough", or "plentiful". Or...this Greek word *epiousios* can mean *all* of these things. One commentator helpfully translates this as *perpetual*: "Give us this day our perpetual bread."

Questions:

1. *How does thinking about praying for "perpetual" bread change your understanding of this part of the prayer?*
2. *What do you think Jesus is trying to teach us about God with this prayer for perpetual bread?*
3. *What do you think Jesus is trying to teach us about ourselves with this part of the prayer?*

Read **Exodus 16:4**.

Some have noted that Jesus' prayer contains many of the words from the opening story about manna in the wilderness from the book of Exodus: *heaven, bread, today* show up in each passage. Notice what is happening in the manna story...

Read **Exodus 16:16-18**.

Questions:

1. *What do you think is the bigger miracle, the giving of the manna from God, or the appropriate sharing of the manna by the people?*
2. *How does the manna story in Exodus help us better understand the prayer of Jesus in Matthew?*

Sending Out

Questions:

1. *Do you think that God has given enough for everyone to have enough?*
2. *Why do you think many millions of people in the world have far less than enough?*
3. *What role do you think the church should play in proclaiming the abundance of God?*
4. *When you pray "Our daily bread", whose needs does God place on your heart?*

Closing

Take a moment in silence to come before God and ask the question, "What word or phrase or idea or moment does God want me to remember from this morning and carry with me this week?"

Close with prayer.