

Theme: Christians pray to God for our daily bread, labor to help provide it for others, and look to Christ, the True Eternal Bread.

I. Welcome To Our Guests

- A. Winter Relief and other guests - welcome
- B. We are really glad to have you with us
- C. We are studying the Lord's Prayer
- D. In it Jesus teaches us about prayer - and life!
- E. Last week - prayer to our Father in heaven
- F. Today - give us this day our daily bread
- G. First half of prayer is focused on God, kingdom
- H. Today we begin to look at our requests

II. A Prayer For Our Daily Bread

- A. A prayer for **bread** - food & necessities
Give us this day our daily **bread**. Matthew 6:11 KJV
 - 1. Bread can also be translated food
 - 2. Bread was the basic food staple
 - 3. Bread is a synecdoche - represents all needs
 - 4. God wants us to bring our real needs to Him!
 - 5. Our loving Father knows our needs, and delights to hear us and answer
- B. A recognition that God **gives** us what we have
Give us this day our daily bread. Matthew 6:11 KJV
 - 1. Give - our very bread, food, necessities

- 2. A recognition that all we have comes from God
- 3. We still work hard for three reasons
 - a. God commands us to work hard!
 - b. Hypocritical to pray one thing and live another
 - c. Faith produces works - we trust and obey!
- 4. But our work is done in spirit of faith that God provides
The fields must, no doubt, be cultivated, labor must be bestowed on gathering the fruits of the earth, and every man must submit to the toil of his calling, in order to procure food. But all this does not hinder us from being fed by the undeserved kindness of God, without which men might waste their strength to no purpose. We are thus taught, that what we seem to have acquired by our own industry is his gift. - Calvin (Commentary on Matthew 6)
- 5. ALL we have is God's good gift to us - never presume

- C. A **daily** prayer for bread
Give us **this day** our **daily** bread. Matthew 6:11 KJV
 - 1. We are called to ask for daily bread, this day
 - 2. Possible that word for 'daily' means 'necessary'
 - a. Only time this Greek word is used is in this prayer
 - b. Could mean daily/coming day/necessary
 - c. Context seems to indicate today/coming day
 - 3. Sense of 'each day' even stronger in Luke 11:3
Give us each day our daily bread. Luke 11:3

4. Goes back to manna in wilderness - Exodus 16:4

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will rain down **bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day.** In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. Exodus 16:4

5. We are to pray, trust daily - and He provides daily

- a. This requires us to walk in faith
- b. This promotes relationship - we keep talking to God

D. A prayer for **our** bread to be given to **us** - community

Give **us** this day **our** daily bread. Matthew 6:11 KJV

1. As we saw last week - whole prayer is communal **Our** Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give **us** this day **our** daily bread. ¹² And forgive **us our** debts, as **we** forgive **our** debtors. ¹³ And lead **us** not into temptation, but deliver **us** from evil: Matthew 6:9–13 (KJV)
2. This includes prayer for daily needs!
3. Not enough to have my own needs met - concerned for others and their needs
4. Hypocritical to ask God for bread and then not care for others
5. And as we work for our bread - we work to give to others
Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Ephesians 4:28

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 1 Timothy 6:18

III. Looking To the True Bread - Jesus!

A. Prayer for daily bread points us to Jesus - True Bread

1. God gives bread to point to deeper need

He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Deuteronomy 8:3

2. Jesus is the True Bread that comes from God

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty... ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. ⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. John 6:35, 48–50

- a. Jesus is the True Bread that we need
- b. Jesus alone can satisfy our deepest longings
- c. We long for something more than food
- d. We are restless & hungry until we feed on Him
- e. We need to feast on Him - every day!

- B. Every day should point us to Jesus
 - 1. As we pray for daily bread - we should think of Him
 - 2. As we eat our meals - should remind us of Him
 - 3. As we pray and eat - we look forward to seeing Him!

IV. Applying the Word - Coming To the Table

- A. If you have never come to Christ - today is the day!
 - 1. Do not settle for physical bread - look to Jesus!
 - 2. You were made for more - made for Jesus!
 - 3. Do not wait - look to Him today!
- B. Come to the Table - and feast upon the Living Bread
 - 1. Daily bread points us to Jesus
 - 2. This Table points us to Jesus - now and in eternity
 - 3. If you are a believer - come and feast today
 - 4. Bernard of Clairvaux

Praying For Our Daily Bread

Matthew 6:11 KJV
January 12, 2014
Communion
Psalm 134:3

May the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth, bless you from Zion. Psalms 134:3

9 Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
¹⁰Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.
Matthew 6:9–13

Jesus, Thou Joy of loving hearts,
Thou Fount of life, Thou Light of men,
From the best bliss that earth imparts,
We turn unfilled to Thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
Thou savest those that on Thee call;
To them that seek Thee Thou art good,
To them that find Thee all in all.

We taste Thee, O Thou living Bread,
And long to feast upon Thee still;
We drink of Thee, the Fountainhead,
And thirst our souls from Thee to fill.

Our restless spirits yearn for Thee,
Wherever our changeful lot is cast;
Glad when Thy gracious smile we see,
Blessed when our faith can hold Thee fast.