



New Life Riders

Motorcyclists Serving God and Community

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Dear Friends,

What is your daily bread?

My parrot Merlin loves rye bread. I love rye bread, too. Often, I will break off a piece from a slice and give it to Merlin. When he sees me open the bag, he climbs down from his high perch to become eye level with me.

“He humbled you and allowed you to be hungry and fed you with manna, [a substance] which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, so that he might make you understand [by personal experience] that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.” (Deuteronomy 8:3).

When Jesus instructed us to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11), he meant so much more than the “Bread” we use on sandwiches. The Bible shows us that “Bread” represents four things.

***“Bread” represents the necessities of life.** Oxford defines “necessity” as an indispensable thing. In our terms, it’s something that you cannot live without, not just something we want. When we pray, “give us this day our daily bread,” we cannot sit idly by waiting for God to throw us bread, we have to do the work! My daughter, Kathy, used to tell her son, Eric, “the only place ‘sit’ comes before ‘work’ is in the dictionary.” Just like God made the Israelites go out and pick up their manna, he also expects us to work. Work is part of God’s purpose in our lives. It builds character.*

***“Bread” represents God’s Word.** As the Bible says above, we cannot live by bread alone but by EVERY word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. When the Israelites were walking to the Promised Land and God was dropping the manna, he was showing them they needed more than just physical food to live; they needed to depend on him. George Muller, one of the founders of the Plymouth Brethren movement in the early 1820’s, said, “Only let it be trust in*

God, not in man, not in your circumstances, not in any of your own exertions, but real trust in God, and you will be helped in your various necessities.”

“Bread” represents God’s family and fellowship. *1 Corinthians 10:16 says, “Is the bread which we break not a sharing in the body of Christ?” It is a metaphor for the family of God. Even if we have not been blessed with a good biological family, God desires we be part of his family (the church) forever. God made it to be a place of fellowship.*

“Bread” represents salvation. *Christ chose to have bread represent his body in the Last Supper and our modern-day communion. Every time we eat the bread and drink the wine or juice, we are reminded of Christ’s sacrifice for us, God’s love for us, and all we need to do is accept this and we can one day join him in heaven.*

Whatever our necessity is today—God is going to meet that need for us. *It can be physical, spiritual, or emotional. We just need to pray the simple prayer, “Lord, give us this day our daily bread.” Just like Merlin looks to me and the Israelites looked to God for daily manna, we must still do this today. Matthew 6:26 reminds me that Merlin’s family (the birds of the air) are cared for, so why would I not be when it says, “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” It makes me think about the song my daughter, Kathy, has been teaching Merlin, “Don’t worry, be happy.” Merlin has only mastered singing the “don’t worry” part, but somehow, I think by only singing that phrase, he is teaching us a more important lesson. We need not worry. God will meet our needs.*

As always, I look forward to seeing you down the road!



*Riding with Jesus,
Bob Dillon
Serving God and Community
www.newliferiders.com*



***Jesus said, “Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God’s good news to one and all.”
Mark 16:15 (The Message)***