



Devotional Guide for September 18-24, 2023

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions with the Lord, and are designed to prepare you for the message next weekend.

Monday, September 18TH “He fed them well with the bread”

Scripture: Psalm 105:39-45 NIV

This psalm summarizes key events after the Israelites had fled into the wilderness from Egypt, reminding God’s people that He provided for them in difficult circumstances. They themselves were the evidence of God’s faithfulness to His promises. We read “He fed them well with the bread of heaven” (v.40). In the New Testament, Jesus taught that He is this bread of heaven. Just as God sent the bread of heaven to save His people from physical death, so He sent Jesus to save His people from spiritual/final death, and to sustain them on their journey to the heavens and the new earth.

Question: How can you allow God to nurture and fill you with the bread of heaven, in contrast with the bread we eat on earth?

Tuesday, September 19TH “Ask, Seek, Knock—and it will be given”

Scripture: Matthew 7:7-12 NIV

Jesus shares commands here that are all in the present tense in Greek, suggesting continuous or frequent action. He expects His followers to remember “Your will be done” as He teaches the disciples in His model prayer (Matthew 6:10). In the way in which parents provide for their children... without deception or with ill intent... so the Lord seeks to provide for His children. The ‘Golden Rule’ (as it is often called in v.12) summarizes Jesus’ ethics at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. Other teachers, both ancient and modern, have made similar statements negatively (“Don’t do to others what you don’t want them to do to you.”) Jesus’ positive phrasing makes obedience something that can never be complete.

Question: How has the Heavenly Father given you His ‘good gifts’?

Wednesday, September 20TH “I am the Bread of Life”

Scripture: John 6:25-59 NIV

When Jesus fed the 5000 (John 6:1-15) then walked on the water (John 6:16-24), He was introducing His ‘bread of life’ lesson. Jesus claims that He Himself is the true manna, the living bread that we must eat to satisfy our souls. Jesus was not actual manna, physical bread, but rather what the Father was now giving is Jesus Himself.

He fulfills God’s giving of manna in the Old Testament by repeating that event at a deeper, climactic level in the history of salvation. For me, it seems ironic that when a bad winter storm is expected, bread is one of the things that people flock to purchase and stock away. With the ‘Bread of Life,’ that is available to us 24/7/365!

Question: How do you picture Jesus as the Bread of Life?

Thursday, September 21ST “Give us today our daily bread”

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-13 NIV

Commonly referred to as “The Lord’s Prayer,” Jesus teaches this prayer as an example to follow, inviting His disciples to share in His prayer life (v.9–13). In the new community of faith, Jesus’ disciples can pray to God as their Father. The prayer begins with a beginning invocation and six petitions that give proper priorities for prayer. The first petition is directed towards God’s name; His name signifies His person. The purpose of hallowing God’s name is that God is ‘sanctified’ or set apart as holy, among all people and in all actions—that God would be treated with the highest honor. Then the fourth petition addresses the disciples’ daily bread, which refers to all of a believer’s needs, both physical and spiritual. As disciples, we are to be concerned with one day at a time, relying on God for our daily bread (provision).

Question: Do you have a favorite type of bread that you crave? How can you deepen your taste for the spiritual bread that the Lord provides?

Friday, September 22ND “If only we had meat to eat!”

Scripture: Numbers 11:1-20 NIV

When the children of Israel had begun their exodus from Egypt and found themselves out in the wilderness, they became hungry and thirsty. They soon grew tired of manna each and every day. I can remember a song by Christian singer, Keith Green, that echoed their thoughts in a humorous way: **“In the morning, it’s manna hotcakes; we snack on manna all day, and we sure had a winner last night for dinner: flaming manna soufflé... (we eat) manna waffles, manna burgers, manna bagels, filet of manna, manna cotti, bamanna bread!”** God met their need for bread, and then their demand for meat... yet they should have been careful what they wished for. Meat would be given... to the extent that they would grow weary of it. We can learn quite the lesson from these Israelites: to be satisfied with what God provides for us and not to demand or crave more beyond that.

Question: Have you ever selfishly asked God for more than you need?

Next Sunday, September 24, 2023

8:30 and 10:45 am (Livestream @10:45 am)

Matthew 6:9-13 NIV and **Numbers 11:1-20** NIV

Pastor Kevin’s message: **“Needing Bread”**

Theme: **“BASIC TRAINING: EQUIPPED 2 ENGAGE!”**

