

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on August 22, 2021:**

**"Two Miracles from the Bread of Life
(Exodus 16:1-21; John 6:56-69)"**

[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman, at church in the Y, shows us that accepting the physical bread from heaven in Exodus prepares us to accept the true Bread of Life – Jesus.]

Introduction:

- So, at a time like this, when we must face death, as we viewed our dear sister Robin Sanders and then the passing of our dear sister Hazel Roberts this week.
- It's important to focus on life and what that means – what life meant to them and what life means to us.

- So, we're going to talk today about 2 miracles from the bread of life.
- In the Old Testament, the bread of life was called manna.
- Now, do you realize what the first miracle about manna was?
- Humor: Some archeologists found a jar of manna and they determined that it was gluten free.
- So let's first take a look at Old Testament passage about the bread of life.

Journey from Elim – the people complain for food (verses 1-3):

Exodus 16:1 (NASB), Then they set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the sons of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departure from the land of Egypt. 2) But the whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

- Notice that they grumbled fairly quickly.

3) The sons of Israel said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread until we were full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this entire assembly with hunger!"

- They were truly upset.

Quail and manna promised – despite their complaints against God (verses 4-8):

4) Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, so that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.

- This is key related to the nation of Israel and it is also key related to the bread of life as Jesus Christ.

- What jumps out here in terms of a lesson, or a principle is the testing of their trusting God.
- As we'll see, God had provided the manna each morning for 6 days.
- By the morning of the next day, the manna stank – got spoiled.
- So, how often should we rely on God? – every day.
- The parallel here is that God renews our spirit day by day.
- Can we store up a week's worth of spiritual renewal? No.
- As we'll see in John 6, our relationship with God is day by day.
- So, through this example of manna supplying their physical hunger and need, we'll see a parallel established with our true bread – Jesus that our relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit is renewed daily.
- God shows us that it's a daily relationship with Him – it can't be stored up.
- And Jesus gives us what we need day by day, as our relationship with Him is day by day.
- Jesus wants us to walk with Him on a daily basis.

5) On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” 6) So Moses and Aaron said to all the sons of Israel, “At evening you will know that the Lord has brought you out of the land of Egypt; 7) and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, for He hears your grumblings against the Lord; and what are we, that you grumble against us?” 8) And Moses said, “This will happen when the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening, and bread to the full in the morning; for the Lord hears your grumblings which you grumble against Him. And what are we? Your grumblings are not against us but against the Lord.”

Quail and manna confirmed again (verses 9-12):

9) Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, ‘Come forward before the Lord, for He has heard your grumblings.’”

- Even though the sons of Israel are being snarky because of their grumbling, we see God responding graciously to them.
- We're also seeing God's mercy in this example as well as they're being trained to have a daily relationship with Him.

10) And it came about, as Aaron spoke to the entire congregation of the sons of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

11) And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 12) “I have heard the grumblings of the sons of Israel; speak to them, saying, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread; and you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

- It didn't matter what their attitude was, God was providing for them and showing the loving relationship that he had with them.

Quail and manna sent – instruction for gathering (verses 13-21):

13) So it came about at evening that the quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14) When the layer of dew evaporated, behold, on the surface of the wilderness there was a fine flake-like thing, fine as the frost on the ground. 15) When the sons of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat.

16) This is what the Lord has commanded: ‘Everyone gather as much as he will eat;

- This illustrates that God is an abundant God.

you shall take an omer apiece according to the number of people each of you has in his tent.” 17) The sons of Israel did so, and some gathered much and some little. 18) When they measured it by the omer, the one who had gathered much did not have too much, and the one who had gathered little did not have too little; everyone gathered as much as he would eat.

- They responded to their needs.

19) Moses said to them, “No one is to leave any of it until morning.” 20) But they did not listen to Moses, and some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank; and Moses was angry with them. 21 They gathered it morning by morning, everyone as much as he would eat; but when the sun became hot, it would melt.

- So, this is the story from the Old Testament that preps us for the true Bread of Life.
- And, the first miracle was that the daily manna helped teach a principle that was vitally needed, which carries on today in our relationship with Jesus.
- And that is that we rely on God day by day and that God provides for us day by day.
- We can’t store up in a reservoir what God gives us day by day.
- God delights in us when we have a daily relationship with Him.
- And in that daily relationship, God provides for both our physical needs and our spiritual needs.

[Pastor Craig then told a story from his Ambassador College days, when he was asked by the Student Body President to give an encouraging message to the entire student body at an assembly concerning their participation in a fundraising project that most weren’t enthusiastic to do.]

The Bread of Life:

John 6:41 (NASB), So then the Jews were complaining about Him because He said, “I am the bread that came down out of heaven.” 42) And they were saying, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, ‘I have come down out of heaven?’”

43) Jesus answered and said to them, “Stop complaining among yourselves. 44) No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. 45) It is written in the Prophets: ‘And they shall all be taught of God.’ Everyone

who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me. 46) Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father.

47) Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who believes has eternal life. 48) I am the bread of life. 49) Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50) This is the bread that comes down out of heaven, so that anyone may eat from it and not die.

- Here's the second miracle: the true Bread of Life provides eternal life not just physical life.
- The bread in the wilderness sustained the sons of Israel's lives physically but they all eventually died.
- Now, those who eat the true Bread of Life, have life for eternity, which is the second miracle.

51) I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats from this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I will give for the life of the world also is My flesh." 52) Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" 53) So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. 54) The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55) For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.

- Jesus was saying that in order for us to have eternal life, He must reside internally with us.
- Jesus was using the words about eating His flesh and drinking His blood to say that we have to have Jesus within us and that we need to be so intimately involved with Him.
- To believe in God the Father and Jesus, God has to be totally and completely within us – that's what Jesus was saying here and emphasizing.

56) The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in him. 57) Just as the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, the one who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. 58) This is the bread that came down out of heaven, not as the fathers ate and died; the one who eats this bread will live forever." 59) These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. 60) So then many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This statement is very unpleasant; who can listen to it?"

- They falsely thought that Jesus was teaching cannibalism, which was an abomination in the Old Testament.

61) But Jesus, aware that His disciples were complaining about this, said to them, "Is this offensive to you? 62) What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? 63) It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh provides no benefit; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit, and are life.

- Jesus clarifies his statement by saying, "the flesh provides no benefit."
- Jesus wasn't literally telling them to eat his flesh and drink His blood, but rather he was telling them that to have eternal life and to believe implies a relationship.
- We need to have an intimate relationship with Jesus every day.

64) But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray Him. 65) And He was saying, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father.” 66) As a result of this many of His disciples left, and would no longer walk with Him.

- Jesus had His theology right. And Jesus had His relationships right.
- But, Jesus didn't force his true teaching on any of His disciples.
- God does not force a relationship with us. Forced love is no love at all.
- Jesus wants a relationship with us that we initiate, as we respond to His love for us.

67) So Jesus said to the twelve, “You do not want to leave also, do you?” 68) Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. 69) And we have already believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”

- So here, Peter is kind of clarifying Jesus' words concerning eternal life.
- Yet, other disciples twisted about these words of Jesus.
- How many things do we get twisted about when it comes to understanding the words of Jesus?
- How many of our friends and family members left the church, when we made the changes, because of their twisted misunderstanding?
- Interestingly enough, Jesus had to deal with the same thing.

Concluding thoughts:

- Here are the two miracles from the bread of life – a daily walk, a daily provision of food and drink which parallels with eternal provisions and eternal life.
- So, we have a wonderful relationship with God when we maintain it daily by listening and participating with the Father, Son and Spirit.
- And when we get sideways in our life, we know that we can always return back to God and participate in our relationship with Him.
- Our intimate relationship with the father, Son and Spirit helps us put into perspective our pain and suffering that we experience and gives us hope.

Closing prayer: