

# Story Time

## Part 7 – Manna: The Wonder Bread

John 6:35; Exodus 16; Deuteronomy 8:2,3

### Introduction

*“I am the Bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst” (John 6:35).*

In Exodus 16:4, in four significant expressions, Moses challenges us to come to terms with how God faithfully and graciously meets our need of daily bread.

- I. The PURPOSE of the Manna was for God to Present an Experiment with His People (4).
- II. The ORIGIN of the Manna Experiment was the Lord (4).
- III. The TIMING of the Manna Experiment is Significant (4).

Note: God’s people complain and gripe because (16:2) ...

1. They have a short memory (Psalm 106:13).
  2. They consume themselves with bizarre conspiracies.
  3. They think they know more than God.
  4. They love the complain-train.
- IV. The Essence of the Manna Experiment is Primary (4, 16, 20)
    - A. God wanted His people in life to think vertically not just horizontally.
    - B. God wanted His people to respond specifically to His instruction.
    - C. God wanted His people to see His glory in His provision.

### Conclusions

Jesus takes the Manna Experiment to another level (John 6:32, 33).

1. In my trial right now have I placed my TRUST, my confidence in the Bread from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ alone, for my eternal destiny?
2. In my trial right now, can I see God’s faithfulness to me in the PAST?
3. In my trial right now, am I trusting the true BREAD out of heaven?

**Auburn Grace Community Church – July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

## Life Group Discussion Questions – July 16, 2023

**Exodus 16:2-4** *“The whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The sons of Israel said to them, “Would that 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 to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” 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, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.”*

**John 6:35** *“Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”*

### DISCOVER

1. Explain whether or not you can have a spirit of thanksgiving and also be a complainer. What can you do to be better at giving thanks? When you join a conversation that is centered on complaining, how can you turn it to thanksgiving instead of joining the complaining?
2. Why does grumbling spread like wildfire? How is complaining analogous to thinking we know more than God? Why do we love to join others when we hear complaints?
3. What does the world tell us we need to have satisfaction? What are the bare necessities for physical sustenance? What are the necessities for spiritual life? Why do we need more than our physical needs met in order to thrive? Read John 4:7-14. How are Christ followers called to be different than the world when it comes to quenching our thirst?

### EXPLORE (Read Exodus 16:1-7)

1. What was the Lord’s purpose for setting guidelines on how manna was to be gathered? How did the sons of Israel perform in the test put before them? How do you think you would have reacted to the instruction to only gather what was needed? Why are the majority of us prone to fill our barns (pantries) until they are overflowing?
2. Why do you think God took it personally when people complained to Moses and Aaron? What have you complained about that might show a lack of trust in God?
3. They were told to gather enough for the day except two days before the sabbath. What were the lessons God was teaching his people? How do we become complacent with the gifts of God? What might be the result when we stop giving thanks to God? Why does God teach His people to remember His blessings, over and over? How do you remember His blessings?
4. Read John 6:47-51. If you had to describe to a non-believer or new Christian how Jesus is the bread of life, how can you envision the conversation progressing?

### EXPERIENCE

1. Pastor John posed these questions. Respond based on a trial from the past or present. In your trial right now, have you placed your trust, your confidence in the Bread from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ alone, for your eternal destiny? In your trial right now, can you see God’s faithfulness to you in the past? In your trial right now, are you trusting the true Bread out of heaven?
2. At your memorial service, what will people say you were thirsty for?

### PRAY

*Pray... Our Father in heaven, please give us Your daily bread. We confess to wanting so much more than is needed to live and thrive for Your kingdom. Moment by moment, please remind us that Living Water is the only water that truly quenches in a dry and parched world. Amen.*