

Daily Readings from the Life of Christ, Vol. 1 (5-25-2012)

May 25 - The True Source of Bread

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

Jesus' reference to "bread" not only signifies food but all of our physical needs. It is amazing that the self-sufficient, infinite God of the universe would care about our physical needs—that we have enough food, clothing, shelter—and then pledge to supply those needs. Thus God is the only source of our daily bread.

When everything is going well in life, we tend to think we are managing it all ourselves. Yet even the hardest-working person owes all he or she earns to the Lord's gracious provision (see Deut. 8:18; Acts 17:24–28). God provided for humanity even before He created Adam and Eve. They were His final creation, and one of the first things He said to them was, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you" (Gen. 1:29). God has fulfilled this statement abundantly and in unlimited ways ever since.

Yet Paul teaches that in the latter days some will "advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe" (1 Tim. 4:3). But the apostle reminds us "everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected" (v. 4).

This part of the Lord's Prayer is an affirmation—appropriate for the well-fed and those who have little. By it we can thank God that every good thing comes from His gracious hand (James 1:17).

Ask Yourself

What are some of the more mundane, ordinary, forgettable things you not only can ask God for today, but can also transform into a prayer of gratitude? How can you make this refresher course in God's gracious gifts become a more regular part of your conscious thoughts and prayers?

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