

HOUSEGROUP NOTES: Week Beginning 9th October 2016

“GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD”

Read: (Matthew 6:25-34)

TO WARM YOU UP:

IMAGINE you've been exiled to a deserted island for a year. In addition to the essentials, you may take one piece of music, one book (which is not the Bible) and one luxury item you can carry with you (not a boat to leave the island) and one food item for each day. WHAT would you take and WHY? SHARE one by one around the group having had enough time to think it through

- Q. WHAT do you think influenced the choices you made?
- Q. Having now heard other people's choices WOULD you change anything and WHY?
- Q. HOW would you explain the difference between a need and a want?

Josiah G. Holland said,

“God gives every bird its food, but God does not throw it into the nest.”

- Q. WHAT do you think he meant by saying that and HOW might it apply to our lives?

TO PUSH YOU ON:

- Q. HOW does (Matthew 6:25-34) relate to our asking God for daily bread?
- Q. WHAT three things do you think worry people the most today and WHY?
- Q. WHAT does it mean to ask our Father to *“give us this day our daily bread?”* IS it a prayer for worry warts?
- Q. WHAT is the point in praying for our daily bread if *“Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him”* (Matthew 6:8)?
- Q. DO you tend to find it easy to trust God for your needs? Why or why not?
- Q. DO you tend to find it easy to take God's provision for granted? Why or why not?

There are two ends of the spectrum here. Some struggle to trust that God will provide, while others tend to take for granted all the God has given.

- Q. WHICH end of that spectrum do you find yourself tending toward? Why?

A PERSONAL PRAYER:

"Lord Jesus, please teach me to appreciate what I have,
before time forces me to appreciate what I had. AMEN."

Q. WHAT are some practical ways people deny that God is the source of all they have?

TO HELP YOU FURTHER:

One man who knew the meaning of "*daily bread*" more than most was Elijah, who was fed by ravens in a desert and by a widow who was every day one serving away from running out of flour. (1 Kings 17:2-16)

Q. WHY do you think God chose to provide for Elijah on a day-by-day basis instead of more abundantly?

Q. DO you think Elijah regretted the way that happened?

Q. WHAT lessons would we miss if we don't rely daily on the Lord's provision?

Most of us have some dreams about owning material things beyond our daily needs. Jesus told a story of a man who was convinced he didn't need daily provision because he already had enough in himself. (Luke 12:15-21)

Q. How is this man described?

Q. WHAT was this man's fault or sin?

Q. WHAT is the point of the parable? CONSIDER (Vs. 15 & 21)

TOTAKE YOU DEEPER:

Jesus' disciples would have been familiar with the references to bread in the following Scriptures: (Exodus 13:3-10; Exodus 16:14-17; Isaiah 55:10-11; Isaiah 58:6-12)

Q. Consider HOW each passage might add significance to the bread petition in the Lord's Prayer.

TO LEAD YOU ON:

Q. WHAT can we do to bring "daily bread" in the Lord's name to others?

Shaun