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# Sermon Notes

June 11, 2023

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

**Give Us**  
Matthew 6:11

## Think About It

- ❖ Why ask God for what you already have?
  - most of us do not live from day to day when it comes to having the food we eat
  - is praying for God to give us *our daily bread* an irrelevant request?
- ❖ With its 4th petition, Jesus' model prayer turns a corner from bowing before God in worship to asking for things that we need for our continuing journey of faith
  - give us
  - forgive us
  - deliver us

## Prayer: The Big Picture

- ❖ From first to last the Lord's Prayer is all about God's **GLORY**
  - recognition of and submission to God and His glory comes first
  - our needs and the opportunities they bring for God to put His glory on display in and through us come second

- ❖ ACTS or SCAT?
- ❖ *Give us this day our daily bread* is a reminder that God is the giver of every good gift: physical AND spiritual

## Dependence

- ❖ We must remember how humbly dependent we are on the goodness of God
  - there is nothing more needy and dependent on all of earth than a human baby
    - that's the way babies are designed/created to be
    - human beings never stop being dependent creatures
  - even as we grow older, we remain tremendously needy on others, communities, governments
- ❖ We cannot give ourselves the gift of life nor can we sustain life on our own
  - SOMEONE IS taking care of you right now!
  - we need protection from the harm and danger that surround us in this sin-stained, sin-polluted world
- ❖ The Lord's Prayer is a prayer of humble dependence
  - God is the supplier of what we most desperately need
  - when we pray these petitions, we exalt God by humbling ourselves

## Food, Glorious Food

- ❖ We need food to survive
  - how much time/effort/energy is spent on food?
  - hunger is God's way of saying:

- "You need me!"
  - "You need bread every day... you need to ASK for bread every day."
- ❖ Praying in faith about our humans needs, reminds us that if our needs are going to be met, it will be God who meets them
    - bread is representative of all of our physical needs
    - think of all God does in this process: seed, soil, sun, and rain combined with human effort of planting, reaping, storing, packaging, distributing, and purchasing
    - God doesn't sell us bread, He gives us bread!
  - ❖ God's primary way of providing His people with what they need for daily life comes through two primary channels
    - work (2 Thessalonians 3:10)
    - sharing (James 2:15-16)

### A Brief History of Bread

- ❖ In His original design, God supplies everything Adam & Eve need to sustain life (Gen 1:29)
  - hunger is not a byproduct of the Fall
  - what **DOES** happen as a result of the Fall is that growing and getting food got a lot harder (Gen 3:19)
    - before the Fall, there is lavish surplus and abundance
    - after the Fall, scarcity enters the picture and difficult labor is required to produce bread
  - we are no longer simply creatures in need of provision, we are sinners in need of our Creator's mercy

- ❖ **DAILY** bread
  - God provides bread from heaven for His children during the years of their wilderness wandering (Exodus 16:4-5)
  - before God's children can enter the Promised Land, they must learn to trust that God will make daily provision for their needs
  - this proves to be a difficult lesson to learn
- ❖ To help us remember our dependence on God, Jesus repeats the concept of daily twice within the space of 7 words
- ❖ God's provision for all of our needs is put on full display through the life and ministry of Jesus
  - Jesus quotes Deu 8:3 during His temptation by Satan
  - Jesus is the bread of life (John 6:48-51)
  - just as we need physical sustenance each day, so also do we need spiritual sustenance

### Personal Reflection

1. Are you more prone to think of yourself as a dependent or an independent person? Does the statement, "God has designed humans to be dependent beings" challenge this self-perception in any way? What may need to change in your thinking as a result of this?
2. Have you ever thought of the petition, "Give us this day our daily bread" as being an expression of your humility? How will remembering this change the way you pray these words in the future?
3. Do you long for spiritual bread as much as you do for physical bread? How can your appetite and hunger help you grow in your relationship with Christ?