

Bread Alone; Matthew 4:4

- I. Manna
 - a. When Sherril and I go to any fast food places (there are some other fancy restaurants as well) that have biscuits, we always get a few extra
 - i. We really like them – especially when they are covered in honey
 - ii. We probably ought to make them at home – then again, maybe not
 - b. This is something that we look forward to – they are really tasty!
 - c. Exodus 16:31 (ESV); Now the house of Israel called its name manna. It was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.
 - d. As much as we like biscuits and honey – as much as Israel ate manna – we cannot live on bread alone
- II. In The Wilderness
 - a. Moses spent 40 days on Mount Horeb
 - i. Deuteronomy 9:9 (ESV); When I went up the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant that the LORD made with you, I remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water.
 - ii. In verse 18, Moses says he laid prostrate before the Lord another 40 days because of the sin of Aaron and the people of Israel
 - b. Israel spent 40 days spying out the land (and 40 years in the wilderness)
 - i. Numbers 14:32–34 (ESV); ³² But as for you, your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness. ³³ And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and shall suffer for your faithlessness, until the last of your dead bodies lies in the wilderness. ³⁴ According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, a year for each day, you shall bear your iniquity forty years, and you shall know my displeasure.’
 - ii. And though we may think this seems harsh – God took care of them while they were in the wilderness
 - iii. Their shoes and clothes did not wear out – they had no disease – God fed them manna (bread)
 - c. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness fasting
 - i. Matthew 4:1–3 (ESV); ¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”
 - ii. Mark’s account of Jesus in the wilderness says the ‘angels were ministering to Him’
 - d. It takes more than bread to sustain a person
 - i. Bread may keep the body functioning – but a person is more than a physical body
 - ii. A person is also a spiritual soul made in the very image of our creator
 - iii. So it stands to reason that we would need something more than just physical sustenance to keep us functioning

- e. It takes more than bread alone
- III. Bread
- a. The Word of God is the bread of life
 - b. "I AM the Bread of Life"
 - i. John 6:48–51 (ESV); 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 from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."
 - ii. Just as bread is a requirement for our physical body, the Word of God is a requirement for our spiritual soul
 - c. Sweeter than honey (Psalm 119)
 - i. Psalm 119:97–98 (ESV); ⁹⁷ Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. ⁹⁸ Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.
 - ii. Psalm 119:103 (ESV); How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
 - iii. I don't think it is a coincidence that the bread from heaven (manna) tasted like coriander seeds and honey
 - iv. Psalm 19:9–10 (ESV); ⁹ the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
 - d. Bread vs. Bread
 - i. In John 6 Jesus feeds 5000 men (probable a lot more including women and children) with five barley loaves and two fishes
 - ii. John tells us that they were going to make Him king by force in verse 15
 - iii. Jesus has his apostles go on across the sea to Capernaum and He follows after them that evening, walking on the water
 - iv. The crowd recognizes that there was no boat for Jesus and that He is no longer there, but followed His apostles to Capernaum
 - v. John 6:25–34 (ESV); ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶ Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸ Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰ So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform?" ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " ³² Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from

heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

- e. Is this our attitude – “give us this bread always”?
- f. Or are we stuck on the barley loaves and the fishes?
- g. Is Jesus king of our hearts because he feeds us?
 - i. Sometimes our attitude is dictated by our stomach
 - ii. We might find it hard to dwell on the spiritual if the physical is making too much noise – “the squeaky wheel gets the oil”
 - iii. But we have to change that – fasting is meant to bring us closer to God
 - iv. Psalm 37:25–26 (ESV); ²⁵ I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. ²⁶ He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing.

h. God’s word is worth so much more than food

IV. Hunger

- a. What do we hunger for?
- b. The five barley loaves and two fishes?
- c. The living bread and water?