

Gather and *feast on* Christ, our daily Manna

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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

Summary:

We all know physical manna stopped once the Israelites crossed over the Jordan (Joshua 5:12). But find out how our wonderful Father continues today to rain down Manna to us daily, freely and abundantly and expects us to get up and gather it each day. Find out how the Manna represents much more than just daily Bible study. Are we gathering and then eating our manna daily? What does that mean for us today?

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Warm welcome from Orlando to the House of God in Yeshua our Messiah – whom most of you might call Jesus Christ. I use his Hebrew name Yeshua, that his mama was told to name Him – meaning “Salvation”.

Most of us have heard about Manna in the wilderness. If you want to read Exodus 16 for the whole story, please do so. Many of us would be very FASCINATED to learn what the manna was like, what it tasted like, how they collected it and all of that. But could we be missing a BIGGER point?

I’m going to try to give shorter, more to-the-point messages, starting with this one. You may have to do some study and reading on your own afterwards if you’re unfamiliar with the scriptures and passages I’ll be using.

I’m going to talk about Manna today.

WHY should we spend time on MANNA? Didn’t all that STOP after they crossed into the Promised Land?

- Your very salvation depends on eating your daily manna and knowing HOW you’re doing that. Are you gathering and *feasting* on Christ - our spiritual manna daily?
- Understand how spiritual manna *is far deeper than just Bible study*, though it includes that context.
- We can read how after the Israelites crossed over the Jordan, their manna ceased – but I’m going to show you that REAL manna, what the MANNA actually PICTURED, has continued for the children of God.
- What lessons can we learn from the manna in wilderness – and living in the 21st century?

Turn with me to **Exodus 16** and let’s wade into this vital topic.

Around 3 million former slaves were trying to come together as the new nation under YHWH, the Eternal God, known as “YHVH their Elohim”. Your English Bibles have decided to write His name as “the LORD” – in all caps – but the original covenant name for our Creator was simply 4 letters – YHVH. We know the Highest today in our most intimate relationship as our “Abba” – Aramaic for “Daddy” or “Dear Father”. Isn’t that amazing?

Anyway, Israel has left Egypt with powerful miracles, the 10 plagues, the dividing of the Red Sea and crossing over on dry ground – but now reality sets in: they're in a wilderness and they have limited food and water. Imagine feeding 3 million people every single day.

Exodus 16:1

"And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt. **2 Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.** 3 And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of YHWH in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly **with hunger.**"

When we're in need, it does no good to complain to people. But we do. And they did. We should bring all our concerns to our Father. But we often are no better, and show a lack of faith to the One who made everything – and provides everything. Any loving father makes sure his children are fed. Yeshua (Jesus) says that our Father feeds the birds of the air and many scriptures show that He provides for animals – so he'll certainly provide for us.

Exodus 16:4

"Then YHWH said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. 5 And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."

There ensues a discussion about quails in the evening, and then manna is described.

Exodus 16:13-15

"So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. 14 And when the layer of dew lifted, there, **on the surface of the wilderness**, was a **SMALL round substance**, as **fine as frost** on the **ground**.

15 So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "**What is it?**" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "This is **the bread which YHWH has given you to eat.**"

In Hebrew, they asked, "*man*" or "*manhu*" – what is it? That's come to us today as "manna". Jump ahead to verse 31:

Exodus 16:31

"And the house of Israel called its name **Manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.**"

Below is a picture of a handful of coriander seed, as this apparently gives us some idea of what manna looked like.



Let's continue:

Exodus 16:15-16

"And Moses said to them, "This is the **bread** which YHWH has given you to eat. 16 This is the thing which YHWH has commanded: 'Let every man gather it **according to each one's needs**, one omer [about 2 quarts] for each person, according to the number of persons; **let every MAN take for those who are in his tent.**"

We learn some more:

- **This Bread from heaven**, and ultimately what it represents – **is our Father's gift** to humankind. It was 100% free. (Remember even among the Israelites was a considerable "mixed multitude" from other nations – Exodus 12:38; Numbers 11:4 – who also received the manna.) Our living God loves to give. Remember Adam and Eve were freely given their food. All they had to do was pick all that freely given fruit -- and eat it. Now once again Yahweh is providing for His children.
- They were to gather it each morning, 6 days a week, according to what each required.
- The head of household was responsible that his household had manna each day.

I recommend, if you're unfamiliar with this text, that you pause the audio and read Exodus 16:15-31. (This page and the next will vary somewhat from the audio.)

In verses 17-20- they gathered as much as each one needed. Now let's pick up in verse 21.

Exodus 16:21

So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted.

Some needed more manna than others. Perhaps what each one “needed” could vary from day to day as well. But notice the end of *verse 21: If they waited too long to pick up the provided food, the opportunity melted away.* Hmm.

Then in verses 22-30 God's Sabbath is revealed by the fact they had to gather twice as much on the 6th day and there was no manna on the 7th day.

My brothers and sisters: the Sabbath is NOT just any one day in seven. It's specifically the 7th day. The manna was not selectively gone, but on the seventh day – a specific day. It obviously meant something to the Creator. And yes – even the mixed multitude – had to keep this or they didn't eat. Verse 30 – they all rested on the 7th day.

Mark down in your notes that we're given another description in **Numbers 11:4-9**. There we're told they would make flour out of the manna by grinding it with mills or pounding it. Then they'd boil it and roll it out into flat cakes and wafers with a slight sweet taste to it. And we're told the mixed multitude started to lead a complaining session that spread.

So what additional points have we read:

- some gathered more than others. No matter how much they gathered, it was enough. This will become a huge point.
- Verse 21 -- And they gathered it **EVERY morning** 1st day – thru 6th day. They couldn't gather a lot on one day and hope it would last for several days. This will also become a big point.
- The Sabbath is identified and kept – before they reached Mt. Sinai. God instituted the sabbath at Creation, before the Law was given at Mt. Sinai.
- The manna could not be stored. If you gathered a lot one day hoping that would be enough to last you several days, that didn't work. It somehow bred worms or maggots. You had to gather it EVERY SINGLE DAY, 6 days a week. Huge point.
- Manna came early in the morning before the sun was up – on the ground, with the dew. If people waited too long, the rising sun would melt it. Opportunity lost!
- The people didn't recognize it. This will become very important. It was small. Humble. Round.
- Had a mildly sweet taste to it – like wafers cooked with olive oil and tasted like some honey had been put into the mix. Naturally good tasting food, but not overpowering.
- Looked like whitish coriander seed. I have a picture of coriander seed above to give an idea of the appearance and size of the manna. (No, It was not like the Catholic round large white hosts they use for communion.)
- DON'T fall for the nonsense that this “manna” was somehow some naturally occurring resin on local bushes and trees.

BREAD FROM HEAVEN

One of the writers of the Psalms was Asaph. He was a Levite put in charge of the choir and choral music. His sons also became famous in the sacred music. He tells us more. He

seems to imply that it came down pretty heavily, plentifully. Remember there were 3 million lives to feed! They each gathered 2 quarts. So that's about 6 million quarts – or 1 - 1/2 million GALLONS. For my non- American listeners, that's 5.6 MILLION liters! Or 36 million cups of manna. There's a lot to go around. I want us to remember this point when we start discussing what all this means for us today. IN Psalm 78, Asaph tells us in verses 17-20 how they were actually taunting God and questioned if He could feed them. Will he set up a food table in the wilderness" – they taunted.

There are going to be several vital points in the scriptures we are about to read.

Psalm 78:21-25

"Therefore YHVH heard this and was furious; So a fire was kindled against Jacob,
And anger also came up against Israel,

22 Because they did not believe in God, And did not trust in His salvation.

23 **Yet He had commanded the clouds above**, and opened the doors of heaven,
24 Had rained down manna on them to eat, and given them of **the bread of heaven**.

25 **Men ate angels' food; He sent them food to the full.**"

What is Asaph inspired to say? It should be very comforting and encouraging to us:

- *EVEN when Israel – or we – are taunting God, HE is so gracious that the manna supply NEVER stopped while they were in the desert. God never stopped the manna. This is mind boggling, as it says so much about our Father in heaven. In spite of the 10 spies who led a revolt, in spite of all the grumbling and complaining, in spite of the gold calf – God never stopped providing for His children.*
- It's called the "*BREAD FROM HEAVEN*" here and also Neh 9: 15. Remember that. Turn to Neh 9. Here the Levites and singers and praisers either chanted or sang what we read in Nehemiah 9. They recount the story of Israel. When they get to v 18, they speak of God's love and providence even in the face of provocation. *EVEN* when they did this or that, HE *still* was merciful. I hope you and I can take encouragement from that when we're feeling bad for a stumble, a sin, we've done wrong – and wondering how our Father feels about us now.... He sent them "food to the FULL".

Nehemiah 9:18-21

"Even when they made a molded calf for themselves,
And said, 'This is your god that brought you up out of Egypt,'
And worked great provocations,

19 Yet in Your manifold mercies You did not forsake them in the wilderness.

The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day,
To lead them on the road; Nor the pillar of fire by night,
To show them light, And the way they should go.

20 You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them,

And did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, And gave them water for their thirst.

21 Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness; **They lacked nothing**;
Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell."

We know that manna stopped once they crossed the Jordan into the promised land. But we've got to stop thinking PHYSICALLY and start thinking in SPIRITUAL terms. Please be turning to John 6.

- Think of being in our *spiritual* wilderness (hear my "wilderness" sermon)
- Though we can't see God, He provides for us and always will.
- Even when we sin – as they did – He is so incredibly patient and merciful as He continued to provide manna during all those 40 years; in SPITE of them.

Much of scripture is giving us spiritual meaning in all the physical happenings. The Rock the Israelites encountered, for example, pictured Christ (1 Cor. 10:4). Crossing the Red Sea was a type of spiritual baptism (1 Cor. 10:2). The animal sacrifices, the priesthood, the altar – SO many things – had a spiritual deeper meaning.

Manna was no exception. It also pictured something far more important, far bigger.

In John 6 we learn a lot. This is the story of the feeding of the 5,000 – from 5 loaves of barley and 2 fish. You probably know the story. But what you may have forgotten are these 2 facts:

- This was just before the Passover, so the bread was in context of Passover season.
John 6:4 – "Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near."

Yeshua sees the large crowd and asks where they could buy bread. Yeshua has the disciples ask the thousands to sit down. FIVE is the number of grace in scripture. You see fives in here – the 5 loaves, the 5,000 men. We learn in Romans 5:20 -- that wherever there's a lot of sin, there's even MORE grace available. Here were 5,000 sinners (we're all sinners), but what did Yeshua do? He provided so much bread – in this pre-Passover miracle – that the hungry hordes couldn't eat it all! There were 12 baskets left over. Remember the manna – we just read in Psalms and Nehemiah that "He sent them food to the full" and "they lacked nothing."

There's more than enough grace to cover your sins, every one of them, no matter how "unforgivable" any one might say your sins were -- if we come in faith to Yeshua and ask His grace and forgiveness to cover and take away our sins, the sins are gone forever. Of course we have to be sincere and fight sin, overcome sin and not live a conscious life of sin. We should not be deciding to sin, in other words, but when we do – "where sin abounds, grace abounds even more".

The next day, in **John 6:22-25**, Yeshua preaches about our true priorities. We shouldn't be seeking bread that perishes. Don't be so focused on the wrong priorities – and I have to preach to myself too – don't be so focused on income, lifestyle, the car you drive, the kind of house you live in. True life is not about this life anyway.

In this context, he identifies what and who the Manna is all about... and how it applies to us today. We're about to see that the Bread of Heaven is continuing.

John 6:26-25

Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. 27 ***Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to***

everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered and said to them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him** whom He sent."

"Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? 31 Our fathers **ate the manna in the desert**; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but **My Father gives [PRESENT tense] 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.**"

Note immediately the tense here. Messiah is telling us that this Bread from Heaven is CONTINUING to be given. "My Father GIVES you...." It's ongoing providence from God.

The Manna, called "bread from heaven" in Exodus 16:4, is identified now with Christ. God the Father provides Bread from Heaven, now identified as Jesus Christ, Yeshua Messiah.

34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

35 **And Jesus said to them, "I AM-- the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."**

The original physical manna was NOT the true bread that gives life! It only pictured the true Bread of Life.

But there's more. Later in the synagogue (v.59), *Yeshua says we have to EAT of His flesh and DRINK of His blood. I like to say – "FEAST ON Him".* Many of his followers left at that point, because the Torah is clear: we can't eat human flesh or drink any blood! *But once again, they were thinking literally, physically – and missed the spiritual point Yeshua was making.* Let's pick up in verse 46-59. This is what the MANNA was all about.

Manna also pictured the written Word, but is actually so much MORE than just that.

John 6:46-59

"Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.

[John 5:37 adds that no one has heard the Father's voice either.]

47 **Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.**

48 I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"

53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, ***unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.*** 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven — not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

59 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

HUGE point: Yeshua makes clear that he is not only what Manna pictured, but he is a specific bread. This is in context of Passover, remember.

THE MANNA TODAY IS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH YESHUA

So Yeshua, King Jesus of Nazareth the Son of God, is what the manna pictures. Everything we read about manna, is pointing to Yeshua -- and your relationship with Him. The first time I gave a similar message on Manna, I likened manna simply to Bible study since Yeshua is the Word, and God's word -- the Bible -- is God's Bread or Word in print.

*But I've come to see that "eating manna" pictured so much more than just Bible study, though it includes it. **It's the entire relationship!** This website is all about relationships. It's realizing your whole being must be enveloped in Him, by Him, through Him; to get close inside His presence and invite His presence into your life. When we eat bread, that bread becomes a part of us, sustaining us. When we partake of Yeshua the Messiah, HE also comes inside us, sustaining us. We should be FEASTING on Messiah, WITH Messiah our Savior – who gave his life for us.*

EATING of Christ; ABIDING in HIM and HE in us; INTIMACY with our Savior

Many of you coming to this site take the Passover just once a year. Some of you picture Passover every time you eat bread and drink wine. That's a different discussion – except I am of the belief now that we must remain in a "Passover-attitude" and appreciation all year long, 24/7.

At Passover, Yeshua broke the Passover bread after He had blessed it and gave THANKS for it (picturing His sacrifice the next 15-18 hours or so). He gave it to the disciples saying "This is my body given for you." – Luke 22:19. He take we are to "TAKE this, receive it, EAT IT, this is my body, broken for you" -- Matthew 26:26.

Now let's start to piece this all together.

- Yeshua said, "My father gives you this manna". *The plentiful feast from above is ongoing.* The manna came, and is still coming spiritually, every single day. Christ comes to us even on Sabbath – though in a different way -- as we listen to others deliver the word to us and expound on Yeshua and his life and way. But many of us don't even recognize it when it's right there in front of us. "What is it?" – we ask.

- They had to gather it each day, first thing in the day. Surely the whole family was involved. *MEN and mothers – let's be sure our children are learning what is FIRST in our lives – and what should be in theirs too. Lead by example.*
- But now the manna not only pictures the Living Word of God, and the Bible – but receiving Christ as your very personal Savior, once and for all – and forever – and daily! Start your day, with joyous thanksgiving for having a Savior, even when or if your own family or friends reject you for whatever reason. Receive, accept, pick up, take this Bread of Heaven that is freely offered and feast on this Bread of Life.
- *It's spending time with the One who lets you now come to the very HOLY OF HOLIES because of what HE is and what HE does and what He's doing in your life.*

In Hebrews 10, Paul teaches how our sins were not just temporarily covered, but totally removed and put away by Christ's perfect sacrifice and so now – there is no need for any additional animal sacrifices. That's Hebrews 10:17-18. Let's go to the next couple verses:

Hebrews 10:19-23

*Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a **new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,** 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

The manna – whether we speak of the Living Word of God (the Bible), Passover bread, or daily accepting the LIFE of Christ over us and in us.... This manna lets us come into the very Holy of Holies and talk to our thrice-holy Father, Abba – El Shaddai, Yahweh Most High who is HOLY, HOLY, HOLY – **because we VALUE this manna enough to get our bodies up and out of bed early enough each day to speak to Him. Better yet, to listen to him, to HEAR his words --- and appreciate all the MANNA that is being literally rained down on us each day.**

Like **Hebrews 10:22** says – “Let us draw near ... with full faith *of being accepted*” as we pick up the word of God, as we bow our heads in reverent worship before we eat of our spiritual meal, our SPIRITUAL DAILY BREAD.

Draw near? In the old covenant, they were terrified to come before God, and in fact only the High Priest could draw near, and only on the Day of Atonement.

There's more.

MANNA AND THE BODY OF CHRIST

The manna, picturing Yeshua our Savior – also pictures his BODY. Another way we feast on our Savior daily is to FELLOWSHIP with likeminded believers and enjoy His Feast of spiritual food together, as we talk about Him, His Saving grace, HIS gift of His Spirit, the gift of HIS righteousness –the righteousness of GOD himself that we receive by FAITH (Hebrews 11:7; 2 Peter 1:1; Romans 1:17; 3:22-25; Romans 4:13; Romans 5:15-19; Acts 15:9; Philippians 3:9; and so many, many others)

It's not our righteousness. There's one standard: the righteousness of God himself is the one perfect standard in the kingdom.

We are to seek the Kingdom of God and its righteousness – God's righteousness which is freely given to us when we have faith in Yeshua, the free manna that was rained down in abundance each morning. But the children of Israel had to get up, drag themselves outside and pick it up, accept it, gather it, and feast on it for their very existence.

My point now though is that Manna also pictures the body of believers. Why? Because the Body of Believers IS Christ, IS the body of Christ. All the children of Israel were out there picking up Yeshua – the free Bread – as they gathered their manna as one body, together. Paul says they shared what they had if someone lacked – so nobody lacked. (2 Cor 8:14-15).

So quit complaining about the manna – which we're doing when we gossip or complain about other brethren in Christ. We are complaining about Christ when we complain about members of His body. It would be like someone saying they love you – but can't stand your legs, or your hair, or whatever! Believers in Messiah are members, parts, of the BODY OF Messiah. We FEAST on His providence as we talk and listen to one another in joy and respect. I haven't always done that and publicly repent of what so many of us do: we get on our high horses and want to make big issues about areas we don't agree with.

Each member of the body of Christ – every single one – has something to add to the Body. We are to esteem one another, as a part of Christ. We have to honor one another as we would Messiah himself, for we are part of Him. Let's read it in Romans 12.

Romans 12:3-8

“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so WE, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, ***let us use them:*** if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Why have we come to feel that we can receive spiritual manna only from ministers? That's so wrong. Moses wasn't the only one sharing his manna with those who didn't gather enough. Everyone picked up and everyone shared in the manna. See EXODUS 16:17-18 AND 2 Corinthians 8:14-15.

We learn later in Paul's epistles that even women like Priscilla, along with her husband, helped an apostle understand more about the Holy Spirit. And Young women were to listen to the older women to teach them. There was discussion, fellowship, learning from one another. There were women prophetesses in the New Covenant fellowships – like Philip's 4 daughters. There were helpers and workers, male and female, Greek and Jew – all working together and contributing to one another, just like parts of a working body works! Together! And forgiving one another and letting that body part get back to work after it did something bad and got sick, maybe even made the whole body sick for a while – the body

accepts the stupid actions of the mouth or hands or whatever and gets back to being one body. Forgiving one another, as Christ has forgiven you.

What' I'm saying is that when we do Bible study together or when we talk about Biblical issues with the Body of Christ, be thinking:

- *God so loved the world that He gave his only son – for me and you – and a part of that Son of God is standing right here in front of you and me in the person of another Believer.*
- *When you listen to a converted and submitted brother or sister in Christ – think – “This is bread from heaven”. Of course we check the scriptures to be sure what we’re hearing IS the word of God. Of course. But do take, receive, love, appreciate this part of the Bread of Life.*
- *This is the Bread given for the LIFE of the world – as we open His Bible and hear Him speak to us.*

Yeshua is the bread from heaven. Isn't it great? Yeshua was born in Bethlehem – “House of Bread”. BREAD in the Biblical word was ESSENTIAL to life. He is saying “I AM... essential to your life, your ETERNAL life.” Remember Yeshua said to focus on the “bread that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you...” (John 6:27). We have to pick it up. We have to open the book. We have to fellowship with the Body. But it's all right there. Feast on Messiah by talking often to the brethren – for they are His body, they are a part of that Manna. Get beyond thinking only ordained ministers can dish out manna.

Manna IS also the Word of God

In Deuteronomy 8:2-3 – speaking of manna – God himself equates the Manna with the WORD of GOD. He says he was hoping that as they picked up the manna each day, that they'd realize the real meaning was to live by every word of God, not just by bread alone.

Deuteronomy 8:2-3

“And you shall remember that YHVH your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with **manna** which you did not know nor did your fathers know, **that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of YHWH**”.

And He said “I AM... the Bread of life” – the first of 7 “I AM” statements in John. He was basically saying to those with ears to hear – that He was God and was with God. When we open our Bibles, we are holding eternity itself in our hands. Are we picking up our manna? Every day? Before the opportunity melts away?

What an opportunity we have. We can have Yeshua speak to us anytime we want. We can come boldly before the throne of Grace knowing God's wrath for our sins were already judged on Calvary when Yeshua took them all upon himself. Read John 5:24 – those who

believe in Him shall not come into judgment. If we are “in Christ” we stand no longer condemned (Romans 8:1).

John 5:24

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

Frankly we need to hunger and thirst for this Bread, this Word of God. It's true righteousness. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness" – Matthew 5:6. Give us this daily bread. It's there, available, every day. We read how the Father gives – ongoing tense –right now, this Bread from heaven.

So today, did we pick up our Manna? Did we enjoy it? Relish it, and look forward to more of this unending abundant supply? This Bread from heaven sustains us, as God did the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years. Forty is the Biblical number for testing and trials. WE are also in a spiritual wilderness – but we're being fed this wonderful feast. He's the Word of God. All we have to do is get up and pick up the Bible and study it – as we pray for guidance.

As we already read in Deut 8:2-3, **the point of gathering manna was to point Israel to their Provider** – and that they needed to live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of YHVH. How will we know what His every word is – if we're not learning it, not hearing it, not reading it, not familiarizing ourselves with it? That was the POINT of manna: to seek God's word daily and LIVE because of that spiritual Bread.

Keeping THE ONE THING the One thing

The point of this sermon is this: Brothers and sisters, time is short. Let's make the MAIN thing in life, the main thing. Let's make that our priority daily goal. Let's make it a good daily habit. We're going to get to bed early enough to get up early enough to do our prayer and study every single day. Without fail.

Some days, we may have time only for a 5 minute read and devotional. That's fine for the occasional day here or there – especially if you were up all night with a sick child or other circumstances. God has a heart. He understands. So you can do other things. Play a Bible cd while you drive back from the Food market. Somehow you have to get some nutrition into you every day – spiritual nutrition.

Remember the Israelites – some gathered a lot and some gathered just a little. But everyone had enough. Some days 5 minutes is all you need and it will be enough –for that day. Other days you may spend an hour or many more on study and prayer. And that will be enough. But we must have some of God's life and words every day.

Remember the story of Martha and Mary in the Bible. Martha had a noble heart and was focused on serving everyone – getting the cold drinks out and dinner on the stove. Mary, her sister, was stuck at Yeshua's feet.

Notice Yeshua's words to Martha. She was concerned with MANY things and missed out. Mary was concerned with the ONE thing, the main thing, and she was commended. Mary

sat at Jesus' feet listening to His words. Remember there were no doubt thousands of stories that could have been told about Yeshua, but of all of those, only a few dozen are preserved for us today. This one story was important enough to be among those preserved for eternity – as so many of us, men and women alike, are “Marthas” so much of the time. Including me!

Luke 10:38-42

“Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39 *And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.* 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.”

41 And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and **troubled about MANY things.** 42 **But ONE thing is needed,** and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

*If this were spoken today, Yeshua would be mentioning some in the audience who were being **distracted** by their dumb “smart phones” – as they would check for their latest FB notification, or email or twitter – even as Yeshua was speaking. There’s perhaps a time and place for social media and smart phones. But there’s a time we should turn them off and focus on the main thing. Let’s make the main thing the main thing in our lives – and then keep the main thing the main thing.*

Could you and I be so concerned with the many “important” things that preoccupy us – so then we miss out on the one essential main thing that brings us real life?

We say we’re too busy to crack open the Bible or have a “walk with God” time. But just compare the time we spend in God’s word with the time we find – and spend – on social media, Facebook, video games, truly inane TV shows and other things that will not bring us true life.

I heard a report that the average 15-30 year old reads and responds to 1,500 texts a month! That’s at least 50 a day! I know, some of you are thinking: “I do more than that”.

Is the WORD being CHOKED BY THORNS OF CARES AND PLEASURES?

Could you and I be caught in that trap of seeking and spending time on worthless things – pursuits that won’t bring us eternal life? Yes, I preach to myself as well. I’m sharing this as this was originally a study just for me, to get ME doing more prayer and study. Are we missing out on building a closer bond with our Savior because the weeds and thorns of life’s distractions are choking the word of God? Look at this about the Parable of the Sower.

Luke 8:14-15

“Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, **keep it and bear fruit** with patience.”

Let's get to bed early enough to get up early enough to once again sit "at Jesus' feet and hear His word" – like Mary did. Get up early enough to open the Word of God, thank God for this daily time you devote to seeking Him and His Word. **And keep the main thing – the main thing.**

Our daily "Date with our Beloved"

I used to be jealous of Biblical characters who could sometimes get to walk and talk with their Maker. But not anymore. Now I like to think of my daily Bible study and prayer time as my daily "date" with my Beloved Master/Savior.

This is my morning coffee time with my Creator as I listen to him speak to me in his word and also during the times I'm just quiet as I pray – and listen for thoughts He puts into my mind. Pray for His Presence as you begin, just as you would ask the blessing and give thanks over physical food. Do the same over your spiritual breakfast and coffee with Messiah. Ask Him to open your mind and your eyes of understanding. He will. Ask – and He will gladly give it to you.

The manna was round and small. My God is so perfect (round) – and yet so humble (small manna). He doesn't force me to pick up His manna, his word, or to speak to him... but why should He even think he'd have to! We should relish our daily opportunity to come boldly and happily before our Husband-to-be, Jesus the Son of God.

Have a journal. Write down notes on thoughts you're getting as you study and pray. You'll cherish this someday. Do it. Every morning. Don't wait too long. Remember if the children of Israel waited too long, the sun melted their opportunity to be in the Word – the manna. **So keep a diary, your journal, of your "dates" with the One who came to save you and give you life.**

I remember in the 1970's when I was at a Bible college, most of the men would get up around 5:30 a.m. each morning, shower and shave and then dress – and then each one would study in the Word for 30-40 minutes, then go to the "prayer booths" to pray. It was easier when everyone around was doing it. That's what I want to have happen again. Just sharing....

TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN...

God pours out the manna – beyond what we can even eat. To whom much is given, much will be required (Luke 12:48). How much have we been given.

Cost of a scroll of scripture. Handwritten Torah scrolls even today cost anywhere from \$13,000 to \$25,000 and up. Many of the ancient scrolls would cost tens of thousands of dollars to buy today -- for each scroll. That's how costly, how rare, how valuable the word of God was. Today we have it without limit – and yet few will delve deeply into it compared to the time spent on worthless pursuits.

Today we have entire Bibles in 170 languages and dialects, on computer, on smart phones, and several Bibles on the bookshelf at home. We can go to motels where it's OK to take the Bible in your room – because the Gideon Society wants you to have one.

On your computer, if you want good access to all kinds of Bible helps, translations, concordances, comparisons, topical Bibles and much, much more – check out **E-sword**. It's FREE and it's loaded with Bible helps and translations. I use **Biblesoft**, personally. You can also get a lot of translations and Bible helps by checking out other free sources: www.BibleGateway.com

So we have HEAPS of manna available. Stand in awe of it. Gather what you need. Just do it. This gathering of your manna is about falling more and more deeply in love with your Maker, even as you reverence Him and come to “see” Him in more and more ways as you have your devotional times with Him.

Ps 119:161-162

“Princes persecute me without a cause, But **my heart stands in awe of Your word**. I rejoice at Your word ***As one who finds great treasure***”

Seek to come to know not just the book – the Bible – but the AUTHOR of the book!

Hebrews 4:11-13

“Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. **12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

So many other points can be made WHY we need to study.

My main point is just to start doing it. Just do it! Get to bed, get up early, have your morning dates with Yeshua.... Start the day off right. But there ARE so many reasons to study God's word:

- The Word is a **LAMP** to guide us... Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 6:20
- **The Word shows us God's will** – and that in turns helps us to DO God's will, making us His children. (Compare Matthew 12:46-50; John 4:32-35). Yeshua called that his food – doing God's will for Him. Read that in John 4.
- **God's word WASHES us and keeps our minds clean** – “by the washing of water by the Word” – Ephesians 5:25-28
- **YHWH's word makes us STRONG.** See 1 John 2:12-15—the men were strong “because the word of God abides in you.”

Psalm 119:9-11:

“Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”

Throughout my life, my worst times, my weakest times and my worst sins came shortly after the periods of my life when I frankly simply wasn't hiding God's word in my heart enough. I'm sure you understand that! Let's get strong... “because the word of God abides in you”.

- The word of God is **our spiritual SWORD** to fight off Satan's doubts and temptations **Ephesians 6:17**
"And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God"

*How many days every week could we be going into our spiritual battles – without our sword? Ponder that? **A day without Bible study is like going into battle without your sword!!! How stupid and reckless is that?***

- As we study, we will also become more able to explain the reason for the hope that rests in us. How can we explain what we believe and what we do – without knowing the Word?

1 Peter 3:15-16

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;"

I hope I've made my point.

I need to get to bed, so I can get up early enough – to study and pray – before going to work, before the sun melts away my opportunity. Obviously those who work afternoons and evenings – as in fact I do – the point is: make the first thing you do be seeking God. Be a SEEKER. He's a rewarder of those who diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:6).

Think of the spiritual lessons of everything we've said here today. Seek FIRST God's kingdom and its righteousness. PUT God first in your life. *Make seeking Him and His Word be the ONE thing we do, without fail, first thing every single day.*

There's another verse in the last book of the Bible about manna.

Revelation 2:17

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat.** And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

The "Hidden manna" was the manna put into a container and placed inside the ark in the Holy of Holies. It was very close to the Mercy Seat and the Presence of YHVH. If we overcome, we are promised "hidden manna" – a very close relationship with our Maker. Perhaps it also refers to new insights into His word and His mind; insights he'll give us. Hallelujah.

I'll end with that....

Closing prayer.