

Aldersgate UMC of Butte, Montana

Sunday, February 7, 2021

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(notes to message)

“Give us This Day, Our Daily Bread”

Hawvian lachma d’sunqanan yaomana

Grant what we need each day in bread and insight.

Scripture Lesson: Q 34; cf: Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:9-13

One day it happened that Jesus was praying in a particular place. When he finished, one of the disciples said, “Lord, teach us how to pray just as John the Baptist taught his disciples.” He responded, “Say this when you pray: ‘Father, may your name be honored; may your reign begin. Grant us the food we need each day. Forgive our failures, for we forgive everyone who fails us. And do not put us to the test.’”

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Message

“Give us This Day, Our Daily Bread”

Hawvian lachma d’sunqanan yaomana

Grant what we need each day in bread and insight.

In preparation for today, I came across an interesting quote:

Y’all need to stop with this “bread is not good for you foolishness”.

Jesus did not say, I am the broccoli of life. Nor did Jesus say, give us this day our daily kale. Stop. Jesus is life. Jesus is the bread of life. Bread is life.

Our world has changed since the time of Jesus, but what has not changed is that people need to eat and need to be nourished both physically and spiritually.



When we pray, *“give us this day our daily bread,”* did Yeshua mean more than just what would sustain us physically? I suspect that the way Jesus taught in parables, Yeshua meant more than a loaf of bread. I believe it is important to understand the wisdom and insight that Jesus was teaching around the bread of life. These words from Matthew 4:1-4 will help to explain:

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.’ ⁴But he answered, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” ’

This is why I take the time to pause each day with some verses from the Bible to guide me, to instruct me, to hear verses of not only inspiration, but insight and wisdom. We live in a world that has seemed to have lost its way. There is fear, pain and turmoil everywhere which is due to the pandemic, devastating destruction from wildfires and unprecedented storms. Then there is the misinformation and lies that are being told over and over and over again around the presidential election. The courts ruled again and again that there was no evidence of widespread voter fraud that would have overturned the election.

I raise this because whether we like it or not, we are what we eat both physically and spiritually:



Kind of scary, but true. **We are what we eat.** Not only is this true physically, it is true what we take into our hearts and minds will shape us as individuals. Several decades ago, I heard this quote, but not sure who to give credit to, but I have never forgotten the wisdom and insight this quote has to offer:

What you think, you look.
What you think, you do.
What you think, you are.

Let that settle in for just a moment.

What we take into our hearts and minds in the way of misinformation changes the way in which we live and move and have our being. What happened at our nation's Capitol on January 6 is an example of what can happen when misinformation continues countless times until people actually believe it.

Siblings in Christ, we are at a crossroads as Christians and as a nation in what we take into our hearts and minds! If we ever hope to live in **harmony** with one another, we need to be open to the Truth, not fiction. Furthermore, we need to be courageous in not only speaking the truth in love, but living the truth with conviction! In order to be courageous, we need to be grounded, to be centered and to be filled with the light and love of God. The Lord's Prayer can empower us to know the truth and as we know, the truth will set us free.

In a few moments the choir will lead us in one of those songs that can empower us to be grounded and centered in a world that is fearful of an uncertain future. If you do know the song, join in on the chorus as we affirm that God's word can be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path

When I feel afraid,
Think I have lost my way,
Still you're there
Right beside me,
And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near
Please be near me to the end.

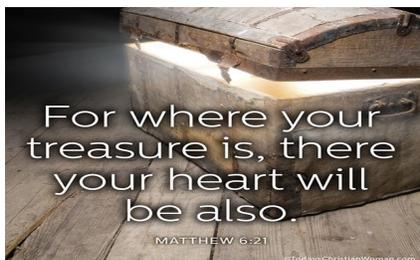
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

Now I will not forget your love for me
And yet my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide
And hold me to your side,
And I will love you to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

601 UMH ... Thy Word Is A Lamp

If the scripture is truly a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path, it will undoubtedly be a treasure of ours:



This treasure chest of wisdom and insight will guide our paths in a time of social and political upheaval and offer a way for us to live in ***harmony*** with one another.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Furthermore, let me ask this question. Is the Lord's Prayer a treasure for you, or not? If it is, it will no doubt change you. If it is not, I trust you will take this prayer more seriously and discover how this can change the way in which you live and move and have your being.

Once we partake in the bread of life, it leads to insight and wisdom on how to live our lives more faithfully as followers of Christ. This insight and wisdom can lead us to a fundamental question that I can hear Yeshua asking: "How will you ever live in ***harmony*** as a nation and a world where millions are starving around the globe?" I pulled this information you are about to see from the United Nations website:

The latest available estimates indicate that about 821 million people in the world were undernourished in 2018. One in nine people do not get enough food to be healthy and lead an active life. / Hunger and malnutrition are the biggest risks to health worldwide – greater than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. / Considering all people in the world affected by moderate levels of food insecurity together with those who suffer from hunger, / it is estimated that over 2 billion people do not have regular access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food, including 8 percent of the population in North America and Europe. From United Nations website

I am currently reading a book entitled, "*not a fan*" by Kyle Idleman who asks the question: "Are you a fan of Jesus or are you a follower of Jesus?"

For example if you are a fan of Jesus, you like reciting the Lord's Prayer for comfort and tradition, but you are not really attempting to bring God's kingdom to earth. That is too scary and risky. However, if you are a follower of Jesus, you take this prayer seriously, and you seriously pray, "*thy kingdom come, thy will be done,*" and you seriously pray "*give us this day our daily bread*" is to share the bread we have with those who have none remembering the words of Jesus, "*Whatever you did to the least of these, you did it to me.*"

Give us this day our daily bread is two-fold. Not only is it about daily bread, it is about wisdom and insight that no one should be without bread, without food to eat ... no one should go hungry. It seems overwhelming when we think about how many millions and millions are malnourished, so I have to put it in perspective. Maybe this story can help.

One day a man was walking along the beach, when he noticed a boy hurriedly picking up and gently throwing things into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked, "Young man, what are you doing?" The boy replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die." The man laughed to himself and said, "Don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make any difference!" After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said, "I made a difference to that one."

We can make a difference if we focus on one life at a time.

As we prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Communion where we take in the mystery of Christ in the breaking of the bread and the drinking of the cup, may we be mindful of this quote: "Live Simply so that others may simply live."

The words for our hymn of preparation for Holy Communion are these:

Eat this bread, drink this cup
Come to me and never be hungry
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
Trust in me and you will not thirst.

Hymn of Preparation # 628 Eat This Bread (2 X)

Hymn embedded and used only if needed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vD847UcRbL4>