

ANCHORS 3¹

Real Devotion: Scripture

Last week we began the study with a look at the first anchor, real devotional life. We discussed the importance of “treading a path” to God, prayer, and spending regular time in God’s presence. Today we are going to elaborate further on what it means to spend time with God.

In today’s passage, Moses leads the Israelites, who had been slaves in Egypt but freed by God, toward their

Promised Land in Israel. Because of their grumbling attitudes and disobedient hearts, they are forced to wander in the desert for forty years before reaching it. The Israelites complain that they are hungry—they miss the food they had back in Egypt. The Lord’s solution is to miraculously send them bread in the morning and meat at night. Just like the Israelites, we need to be fed daily from the Lord because “man does not live by bread alone.” Like the Israelites, we also have to gather our daily bread to sustain us. This is why it is important to have a daily devotional time in the Scriptures.

Exodus 16:1-21, NIV

The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. 2 In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. 3 The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.” 4 Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. 5 On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.” 6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, 7 and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?” 8 Moses also said, “You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord.” 9 Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.’” 10 While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud. 11 The Lord said to Moses, 12 “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’” 13 That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14 When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. 15 When the Israelites

Pre-Article Questions:

1. If you were able to attend our large group worship service this week/ past week, how did God speak to you through the worship or the message?
2. Tell about a time you were unexpectedly provided for. What did you need and how did you get it?

Exodus 16:1-21, NIV continued

saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat. 16 This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.'" 17 The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little.¹⁸ And when they measured it by the omer, the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed. 19 Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning." 20 However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them. 21 Each morning everyone gathered as much as they needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away.

John 6:30-35, NIV

So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? 31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" 32 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." 35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Study Questions:

1. What do the Israelites wish for as they grumble (v. 3)?
2. How is this a skewed perspective?
3. Can anyone relate to this? What has God taught you?
4. What is the Lord's solution to their problem?
5. What instructions did God give the Israelites concerning the manna and what happened when they disobeyed?
6. How do you see these instructions as connected and applicable to your daily devotional life in Christ?
7. In what ways has reading the scriptures this semester been like daily manna for you? How have you noticed your day shift from being in God's Word?
8. Re-read John 6:30-35, according to Jesus, what is the true bread from heaven? Who gives this bread?
9. What promise is given to those who come to Jesus, the Bread of Life? Can someone paraphrase this passage and apply it to us all?
10. How does the John passage challenge you in your daily devotional Life? What practical and spiritual steps can you take read the Bible daily and trust God for your "Daily Bread?"

Prayer Partner Assignment:

Meet with our prayer partner this week and use the PROAPT Bible Study Tool with Matthew 4:1-11. After you each use the tool to look at Matthew, share some of your applications together and end in prayer. Incorporate the PROAPT into your daily life. Use it twice this week in your personal study and share next week how it went in Life Group.

Closing

Put some worship music on and spend ten minutes journaling on a piece of paper or a personal journal about all that comes to mind on the following verse whether it be other verses, words, thoughts. Write the verse out on the top of your paper to begin. Write it a couple times. Take some time to share your personal thoughts and meditation on the verse afterwards.