

# GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

Mt 6:11; Ps 104:10-30; Mt 6:25-34; Jn 6:47-58

## I. THE GIVER: GOD the FATHER ALMIGHTY

- A. His Giving Nature: an important aspect of His Goodness
  - 1. Donative: self-giving
  - 2. Altruistic: other-oriented
  - 3. Liberal: neither prodigal nor stingy
  - 4. Magnificent: neither vulgar nor petty
- B. Biblical record: He gave His Son (Jn 3:16); He gives wisdom (James 1:5); He gave land to Abraham (Gn 28:4); He gave Job twice what he'd lost (Job 42:10); He gave Ruth a baby (Ruth 4:13)
- C. Ultimate Source of all—Ps 104:10-30
  - 1. "Sends springs into the valleys" (v. 10)
  - 2. "Causes grass to grow for the cattle" (v. 14)
  - 3. "And vegetation for the service of man" (v. 14)
  - 4. "And wine that makes glad the heart of man" (v. 15)
  - 5. "Oil to make his face shine" (v. 15)
  - 6. "And bread which strengthens man's heart" (v. 15)
  - 7. "You send forth Your Spirit, they are created" (v. 30)
  - 8. "And You renew the face of the earth" (v. 30)

## II. THE RECIPIENTS: US

- A. Me: a person created in His Image, needing His provisions
  - 1. Proper self-love includes self-preservation
  - 2. Healthy personal concerns for goods needed for good life
  - 3. Responsible to: preserve being; maintain well-being; develop talents; serve well; all need sustenance
- B. And Thee: others included in spheres of concern
  - 1. Immediate family—duty to provide, as Paul made clear
  - 2. Church family—charity expends, as offerings in NT indicate
  - 3. Nearby needy—criteria for final judgment, Jesus declared (Mt 25)
  - 4. World at large—famines & hungry folks forever
  - 5. Green Revolution & amazing alleviating of endemic famines—Norman Borlaug genius; praying for knowledge & delivery systems & political processes needed to provide food

## III. THE TIME-FRAME: THIS DAY

- A. Focus on the NOW
  - 1. Manna lessons—Ex 16:1-11
  - 2. Folly of long-term security—Jesus re bigger barns, all for naught
- B. Surrendering/consecrating the future
  - 1. Don't worry—Mt 6:25-34
  - 2. Be happy! content with what given

## IV. THE GIFT: BREAD

- A. Significance in ancient world & throughout history—most basic food (both edible & tasty)
  - 1. Result of agricultural "revolution" (wheat in Middle East, maize in MesoAmerica, ca. 10,000-5,000 B.C.)  
—predictable nourishment, unavailable to hunter-gatherer societies
  - 2. "Staff of life" representing sustenance—thus "bread-earner," "breadbasket," "bread & butter"
  - 3. Leavened & unleavened—differences & advantages
- B. Temporal: life's necessities, goods
  - 1. Manna from heaven (Ex 16:1-27)
    - a. Mysterious ingredients, subject of endless speculation
    - b. Mysterious aspect of the First Covenant (cf. Hebrews 9:4)
  - 2. Physical needs of all sorts
- C. Spiritual/Eternal: ultimate Good
  - 1. Jesus: "I am the bread of life" (Jn 6:47-58)
  - 2. Eucharist: essential sacrament
    - a. "Real Presence"—"transubstantiation" in Catholic tradition, asserted without explanation in Orthodox
    - b. Accompanied by faith, a real presence—"consubstantiation" in Lutheran (and some Anglican) views
    - c. Purely symbolic, a reminder of Christ's atoning work—Zwingli, Calvin, most Protestants