



Sunday, April 17, 2011: Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

Scripture: Matthew 6:11; Deuteronomy 8:1-10; John 6:41-58

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Sermon Notes:

1. The first three petitions in the Lord's prayer pertain to eternal life; the last four to the temporal life.
2. We're always to live in light of the eternal while we are in the temporal world.
3. The temporal work that we do in this life for the kingdom of God has eternal value.
4. There are three possible meanings of 'daily bread':
 - i) All of those things that meet our needs in this temporal life;
 - ii) The daily sacrament of communion;
 - iii) The spiritual food of the word of God (John 6:27, 51).
5. i) If the petition for bread is to receive what is to nourish us in our temporal life, why would Jesus tell us a few verses later (Matt. 6: 25) not to worry about such needs? And why tell us in v.33 to seek *first* the Kingdom of God?
6. ii) Augustine's objections: 1) If daily sacrament is meant by 'daily bread', then the Eastern church would be in grievous sin; 2) If we prayed the Lord's prayer more than once per day, we would end up having to consume the sacrament more than once, and thus be in defiance of the 'daily' component.
7. iii) 'Daily bread' refers to the word of God (Ps. 1:1; Jn. 6: 27, 51; Dt. 8: 3).
8. Why does the petition for daily bread precede the petition for forgiveness of sin? It is the word of God which illuminates

our sin, and allows us to see it. God's gracious presence reveals to us that we are sinners.

9. There is *no* natural apprehension of sin – we recognize immorality in ourselves, but not sin (God defiance). Jesus reveals to us that we are sinners, and tells us the good news that He has come to die for sinners (1 Tim. 1:15).
10. Illustration: The Father's love runs out to meet us in our real need, and then we become aware of how needy we are (Luke 15:11-24).
11. Preaching is so significant, because the Word reveals salvation (Romans 10:14).
12. Deuteronomy 8 gives us an eschatological vision of the kingdom of God.
13. Its fulfillment is in Revelation 22:1-7.

Application Questions

1. How is the word of God a source of life according to Psalm 1:2 and Deuteronomy 8:3?
2. How can I avoid the 'tyranny of the urgent', putting good things in the place of the best thing?
3. Am I looking to God's **Word** for my daily bread or am I being self-reliant?
4. Am I living in light of the eternal, or is my focus solely on the temporal?
5. What does this passage teach about growth in maturity in this temporal life?
6. What things might I have to set aside in order to prioritize spiritual nourishment?