

Intro: I remember the day I understood what Fried Rice is. (you know, Chinese dish with all kinds of goodies in it) I was in China, meeting with a group of young leaders in an underground Church in Beijing. At one of their houses And when lunch time came around, we took a break, host got up, went to fridge (most don't have) rice and leftovers!

As I have traveled around the world teaching in other countries, one thing has become VERY clear. The rest of the world doesn't eat the way we do. Cuba (one of our first trips...hire workers...1.00 a day) Feed them lunch!!! That is crazy! (But you do need to pay them every evening. Don't pay them...family doesn't eat

Those experiences...and dozens of others...have taught a little of what Jesus meant when he taught his disciples to pray

"Give us this day our daily bread..." Matthew 6:9-13 Pg 685

As we continue to study the Lord's Prayer this morning there are 2 distinct LESSONS Jesus is teaching us when He tells us to pray: *"Give us this day our daily bread."*

1. Jesus Is Reminding Us Of Our Total Dependence Upon God.

- *The direct interpretation:* I do believe Jesus is talking about the FOOD we need for living (bread is representative) Much of the world...if not MOST of the world...simply doesn't eat the way that we do! Not a single one of the countries I have worked in do. All 5 of the countries I have been in drastically different So, in those countries...this prayer makes perfectly good sense...they GET IT at a level we don't! This is highlighted for Jesus' hearers that day, because of their history
OT OT Jews: Daily Bread for them: Brings them back to Exodus and Manna
Ex 16:LESSONS: There is a LOT going on, but for starters:
 - ~Daily provision He will give you what you NEED
 - ~Trust Him...again! He is FAITHFUL!
 - ~Enough...but none extra His provision is RIGHT!
 - ~Use what I provide correctly OBEDIENCE with what He provides
- *The broader application:* I think Jesus is referencing something greater than our next day's meal though There is MORE going on here You see this all throughout the OT and the NT The issue of Bread, and Food...It is Bigger than just, What am I having for Lunch There are some very foundational and important Spiritual Lessons incorporated here:

You see, I think part of the whole point of Jesus teaching us to pray..."Give us this day our daily bread" is we need to know There are SOME THINGS ONLY GOD CAN PROVIDE!

*Unfortunately, in our Culture, where we live, we live in a world of Physical Abundance and Spiritual Starvation!
We have an abundance of the things that matter the least...and are poverty stricken on things that matter the most!*

So, when Jesus tells us...PRAY: Ask God to Give you what You NEED! It isn't just about the bread! He is telling us, "Don't You Know That You Are STARVING FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE!
3 FOUNDATIONAL LESSONS!

~Dependence:

Deut 8:3 *He humbled you, causing you to hunger...feeding you manna...teaching you...man does not live
Job 23:12 I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.*

~Priority: There is something in life MORE important than the physical!

EX: John 4:32-34 Woman @ Well: *I have food to you that you know nothing about! My food is to do the will*

~Provision:

Only God provides those more important things

John 6: Feeding of 5000: Where are we going to go to get the food! No way
I am the bread of life!

Where are you going to go to get THIS spiritual food! No way apart from ME!!!

Lessons:

- ~vs 32: What you have: It didn't come from Moses: (or YOU!) God provided it
- ~vs 35: What we MOST need is Jesus: Spiritual life that comes through Him (I AM)
- ~vs 49: Physical bread gives physical life: Spiritual "bread" gives spiritual life! (Ate/died!)
- ~vs 67/68: Do you want to leave too? No where else to go: Only ONE place provides life!

APPL: Are you depending on Him for your Physical food? (most of us...we don't even think about it)

Are you depending on Him for your Spiritual food? (many of us...don't think about this one either!!!)

2. Jesus Is Reminding Us Of Our Potential To Be Distracted From What is Truly Important!

It is so very easy for us to get caught up in the PHYSICAL....and totally overlook the SPIRITUAL!

- **Refocus Us:** (That is what going out to get the manna did, right. EVERY single day...Is it there? MANNA? The same thing with the cloud and pillar of fire: Do we move today? Teaching how to follow! When you are desperate for daily food, you pray for help...depend on God, focus on Him But, when you have everything that you need, and more...You forget Him!!!)
- **Keep Us Centered:** We can get off track either extreme: Too much...or Too Little
Prov 30:9 "...give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God."
~**Too Little:** Temptation is to start to cut corners, fudge the facts, do something that is immoral

That isn't the issue most of us struggle with...though perhaps we are.

~**Too Much:** Temptation is to start to pursue more and more and more...and Forget the Lord who gave it to you.

I have known many MORE people spiritually ruined by the distraction of too much than that of too little!!
Jesus warns us about it a couple of times.

Mt 6:19-21 "No treasures on earth...Heart follows your treasure!"

(DON'T BE DISTRACTED!)

Luke 12:15-21 "life does not consist in the abundance of possessions! More/Bigger/Fool!" (DON'T DISTRACTED)

APP: Have you allowed yourself to become distracted by the pursuit of physical instead of spiritual?

Have you fallen into the trap of pursuing more and more and more...beyond what you need

Following the false illusion that you are going to "Protect" yourself!

Tale of 2 men: 100 million...:Lost almost everything 5 million...died suddenly...lost it all!

CONCL:

When Jesus tells us...PRAY: Ask God to Give you what You NEED! It isn't just about the bread!

He is telling us, "Don't You Know That You Are STARVING FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE!"

You and I: We live in a world of Physical Abundance and Spiritual Poverty

We have more than we need of Physical things...while we are starving for what REALLY matters Spiritually

There is only one place you can get either one:

It all comes from God

1. If you are struggling physically, Need him to provide for your basic needs, Food, shelter, Health Come and pray

2. If you are struggling spiritually, Only He can give you what you need. Like Peter said..Where else are we going to go?

Whatever your need today, you come.