

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church



Weekly Sermon Series

Taking Root: Deep Breathing ...Daily Bread Exodus 16:1-5, 13-20; Matthew 6:25-33

Please read Exodus 16:1-5 and 13-20. After the Israelites left Egypt as God had made possible and were traveling through the desert to the promised land, God further provided daily food. This food not only sustained them bodily, but its provision and the instructions God gave for using it tested their trust in God; a trust that would be necessary both for their survival and the accomplishment of God's purpose.

Now please read Matthew 6:25-33 where Jesus teaches about the futility of worry against trust. Worry cannot add a single hour to our lives; worry instead removes us from trusting in God and destroys our relationship with God.

Our catechism study for this session is the petition of the Lord's Prayer where Jesus says to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." As the Israelites were provided daily food, as the birds of the air and the lilies of the field are provided food and clothing, so are we to ask God for that which is needed to sustain us. That is the trust needed to live in faith in a relationship with God.

As God's people today, why is this so difficult? Why do we make ourselves bigger than God and think that we have to do for ourselves by ourselves? Is it because our wants are larger than our needs? Could it be that instead of listening to what God wants for us, we spend our time and effort going after these wants, then asking God to bless our endeavors and worry whether God will? Even as grandparents, do we want for our children and our grandchildren more than they

need? Perhaps God has an entirely different purpose for their lives... “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.”

Where is the connection between seeking for righteousness and trust? Does following God require us to leave our comfort zone? To go out on a limb? Are we being tested as the Israelites were in order that we trust as God’s created people? Let’s discuss: Does age and experience make us more hesitant to trust in God rather than ourselves if we have not put our trust in God before? Or has age and experience in trusting God given us joy and confidence in our later years, knowing that our trust in God is not misplaced? What freedom do we enjoy because we do trust God? How does this impact our relationships with those around us?

The young man whom our granddaughter married added another line to our table grace, “Come Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blessed. And may there be a goodly share on every table everywhere.” We have been blessed to watch their way of living this prayer. Is this what Jesus meant when he asked us to pray, giving us the freedom to live open-handedly? Trustingly, Amen.

-- Week of August 9, 2009