

Ex. 16; Numb. 11; Deut. 8 - P.L.A.T.E of Manna and Quail

Intro - Thanksgiving is just around the corner & food is a major factor in celebration. Going to consider famous account of manna & quail as an OT lunch lesson in preparation. Use the acrostic PLATE

P – Provision of Food for Fussy People

- Ps. 136:25 says of God that, “He gives food to every creature. His love endures forever”
 - It a testimony of God’s love and goodness that He provides food for His creation
 - He provides for the animals – Matt. 6:26 Job 38:39-41
 - He provides for the people - Gen 1:30 Gen. 8:22; 9:3 Acts 10:13 1 Tim. 4:3-5
- Sinful humans are the only ones who fuss about their food. Complaining creatures are we
 - Israelites complained about food and type of food Numbers 11:4-6
 - Numb. 11 mentions complaining and wailing 6 x’s Ex.16 – “grumble” 7 x’s
 - We often gripe and grumble to God about His provisions (picky yet prosperous)
- God graciously provided manna and quail
 - Manna was daily provision and quail on special occasion. Manna described in Apocrypha “strong in enjoyment and suited to every taste. The bread, responding to the desire of the man that took it was changed to what each one desired” Wisdom of Sol. 16:20-21
 - God is so patient to supply us fussy people with: air, water and pleasant and good food

L – Life Pattern

- In the provision of God there was a LIFE PATTERN given by God
- Ex. 16:4 – gather enough for that day Ex. 16:16 – gather as much as they need
 - “What graciously gives we must industriously gather” M. Henry “Gods bounty leaves room for mans duty” Ex. 16:21 – melted away after morning
 - Early bird gets the manna - if you snooze you lose 2 Thess. 3:10
- Ex. 16:5, 22,26,29 no manna fell on 7th day so twice as much to be gathered on 6th day
 - The life pattern from creation of 6 days work and 1 day rest was reiterated in manna
 - This pattern was in place before the 10 commandments (Ex. 20)
- There is a routine related to our food
 - In its gathering, in its preparing , in its eating and even in resting - LIFE PATTERN

A - Abundance is not always Blessed

- God gave a pattern of daily provisions to engender trust, faith and a reliance on Giver
 - Proverbs 30:7-9a there is a danger in having too much
- We are often given to greed, hoarding and coveting
 - They tried to hoard the manna to bank it would stank it Ex. 16:19-20

- God will sometimes give us what we crave and lust for. Like leaches loaded/bloated
 - o God have given them enough manna and quail but they wanted more (Prov. 30:15)
 - o Numbers 11:18-20 Psalm 78:27-29 gorged and gluttoned for a month
 - o Numbers 11:31-32 3' deep for a days walk in any direction (enormous amount)
 - 600,00 men (11:21) + families gathered day and night for two days
 - o He who gathered least gathered 10 homers - What is a homer? (visuals)
 - 1 homer = 6.5 bushels 10 homers = 130 half bushel baskets (1 ¾ tons)
 - 1 homer = 220 liters 10 homers = 110 2 liter bottles
 - 1 Homer = what 1 donkey (*harmer*) could carry 10 donkey loads per
 - God dumped loads and loads on the leaches
- An abundance is not always a blessing Numbers 11:33
 - o Psalm 106:15 (NKJV) gave them their request but sent leanness into their souls
 - Fat bellies /scrawny souls. They gained meat but lost something more valuable
 - o Our "blessings" can be cursed. Mal. 2:2
 - o Ever observed when "too much" was someone's undoing? (Ox fattened for slaughter)
 - Bad thing when God gives people over to their cravings(Rom. 1:24; Ps. 81:10-12)

T - Testing and Teaching

- God tested them with His provision and His food and He will test us with provision and food
- Ex. 16:4b "...I will test them to see whether they will follow My instructions."
 - o Our cravings - vs - Gods commandments
- Deut. 8:2 "...test you in order to know what was in your heart"
 - o KJV - "prove" A baker must "PROVE" the dough if the final product is to come out right
- God "proves" us with the timing of His provisions. He tests us with food/cravings
 - o The "wait" has to work its way through us to prove us
 - o Deut 8:3 - humbled and caused to hunger then feeding with manna.
- Mankind has failed food test - Our first parents failed this test (Gen. 3:6) Israel failed this test
 - o Only Jesus passed this test Matthew 4:1-4
 - My murmuring heart doesn't see the problem with the devils temptation
- I think the point of the test is that food is good but LIFE IS MORE THAN FOOD - Matt. 6:25
 - o The point of the pattern is not to leave God out of the routine
 - o The point of the provision is that GOD HAS PROVIDED HIMSELF Ps. 81:10
 - God's Word - vs - our wants Ps. 23:1 "...I shall not want"
 - o Our hunger pains should remind us that we should hunger and thirst for Him/Word
 - Ps. 19:10 Jer. 15:16 Job 23:12 Matt. 5:6
 - o Our food routine should remind us of the all important relationship
 - Is profits nothing to gain the whole world but lose our soul - Mark 8:36

E - Everything for God's Glory

1 Cor. 10:31 - as you get ready for the feast of Thanksgiving don't leave out God, His glory or His Word