



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



Vol. 19 Issue 351

Feb.01, 2012

Worship Music

[Stronger-Mandisa](#)

[Shackles-Mandisa](#)

[Waiting For Tomorrow-Mandisa](#)

[We Cry Out-Kari Jobe](#)

[Healer-Kari Jobe](#)

[My Beloved-Kari Jobe](#)

[The Face-Ryan/Dan](#)

Prayer

Lord, how can I ever thank You enough for the power of Your Word? I am so honored that You would place such a gift in my life. Help me to appreciate it, value it, and give it the kind of reception it deserves. I want to make Your Word a top priority in my life; I want it to feel welcomed, wanted, and deeply loved. Starting today, I open my heart wider than ever before and ask that Your Word come to richly dwell inside me, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

Exodus 16: 1-36 (AMP)

1 THEY SET out from Elim, and all the congregation of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they left the land of Egypt. 2 And the whole congregation of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, 3 And said to them, Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger. 4 Then the Lord said to Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from the heavens for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in My law or not. 5 On the sixth day they shall prepare to bring in twice as much as they gather daily. 6 So Moses and Aaron said to all Israel, At evening you shall know that the Lord has brought you out from the land of Egypt, 7 And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, for He hears your murmurings against the Lord. For what are we, that you murmur against us? 8 And Moses said, [This will happen] when the Lord gives you in the evening flesh to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the Lord has heard your grumblings which you murmur against Him; what are we? Your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord. 9 And Moses said to Aaron, Say to all the congregation of Israel, Come near before the Lord, for He has heard your murmurings. 10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud! 11 The Lord said to Moses, 12 I have heard the murmurings of the Israelites; speak to them, saying, At twilight you shall eat meat, and between the two evenings you shall be filled with bread; and you shall know that I am the Lord your God. 13 In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning the dew lay round about the camp. 14 And when the dew had gone, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a fine, round and flakelike thing, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. 15 When the Israelites saw it, they said one to another, Manna [What is it?]. For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat. 16 This is what the Lord has commanded: Let every man gather of it as much as he will need, an omer for each person, according to the number of your persons; take it, every man for those in his tent. 17 The [people] did so, and gathered, some more, some less. 18 When they measured it with an omer, he who gathered much had nothing over, and he who gathered little had no lack; each gathered according to his need. 19 Moses said, Let none of it be left until morning. 20 But they did not listen to Moses; some of them left of it until morning, and it bred worms, became foul, and stank; and Moses was angry with them. 21 They gathered it every morning, each as much as he needed, for when the sun became hot it melted. 22 And on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each person; and all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses. 23 He said to them, The Lord has said, Tomorrow is a solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord; bake and boil what you will bake and boil today; and all that remains over put aside for you to keep until morning. 24 They laid it aside till morning, as Moses told them; and it did not become foul, neither was it wormy. 25 Moses said, Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord. Today you shall find none in the field. 26 Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there shall be none. 27 On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. 28 The Lord said to Moses, How long do you [people] refuse to keep My commandments and My laws? 29 See, the Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day the bread for two days; let every man remain in his place; let no man leave his place on the seventh day. 30 So the people rested on the seventh day. 31 The house of Israel called the bread manna; it was like coriander seed, white, and it tasted like wafers made with honey.

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Exodus 16:32-36 (AMP) 32 Moses said, This is what the Lord commands, Take an omer of it to be kept throughout your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness when I brought you out of the land of Egypt. 33 And Moses said to Aaron, Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept throughout your generations. 34 As the Lord commanded Moses, Aaron laid it up before the Testimony to be kept [in the ark]. 35 And the Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a habitable land; they ate the manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan. 36 (Now an omer is the tenth of an ephah.) _____

Exodus 16. Manna and Quail

After one month of traveling, the hardships of desert life began to affect the Israelites' dispositions. They began to complain, thinking about what they had in Egypt, rather than about what God would give them in the Promised Land (vv. 2–3). Manna was a small round flake used for making bread. It tasted, it is said, like wafers made with honey (v. 31). It was either a direct creation or a natural product miraculously multiplied. It fell with the dew each night and looked like coriander seed. The manna was ground in mills or beat in mortars, then boiled in pots, and cakes were made of it. Each person was allowed an omer (about two quarts or two liters) daily. On the sixth day there was always enough to last over the Sabbath. The manna began one month after they left Egypt and was given daily throughout the 40 years in the wilderness until they crossed the Jordan. Then it ceased as suddenly as it began (Numbers 11:6–9 ; Joshua 5:12). Jesus regarded manna as a foreshadowing of Himself (John 6:31–58).

Quail (Exodus 16:13) are mentioned only twice: here and a year later, after Israel had left Mount Sinai (Numbers 11:31–34). The people had great herds of cattle (Exodus 12:38), which they could use only sparingly as food. In Egypt the Israelites had eaten mostly fish instead of red meat.

Mount Sinai

Also called Horeb. The Peninsula of Sinai is triangular in shape, situated between two arms of the Red Sea. The west shore is about 180 miles long; the east shore about 130; and the north border line about 150. The northern part of the peninsula is desert; the southern part is a "great cluster of rugged chaotic mountains. "

The region was probably named for Sin, the Babylonian moon god. It was early known for its mines of copper, iron, ochre, and precious stones. Long before the days of Abraham, the kings of the East had made a road around the north and west fringes of the Arabian Desert to the Sinai region.

There is some debate as to which mountain in the Sinai Peninsula is Mount Sinai. The two most likely possibilities are Ras es-Safsafah and Jebel Musa, both of which are located on a granite ridge of about three miles. Ras es-Safsafah (6,643 ft.) is on the northern edge, Jebel Musa (7,497 ft.) on the southern edge. Tradition and most modern scholars accept Jebel Musa as Mount Sinai; others prefer Ras es-Safsafah because there is a considerable plain at the foot of the mountain where the Israelites could have camped (see Exodus 20:18). Another possible (though less likely) candidate is Jebel Sin Bisher, about 50 miles north-northwest of Jebel Musa (see p. 134).

At the foot of Jebel Musa is St. Catherine's monastery, where Friedrich Tischendorf discovered the famous 4th-century manuscript of the Greek Bible known as the Codex Sinaiticus.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History and Commentaries; pages 144-145)

Manna: V 1 They have been journeying for 45 days. **VV 2-3** They quickly forgot the misery and cruel bondage of Egypt. Oftentimes after coming out of the bondage of sin, a person will look back on those experiences as more glamorous than they were in reality. We forget the emptiness, the pain, the hurt, and the suffering. All we remember is the full stomach. So as the children of Israel look back on their experiences in Egypt, all they remember are the full stomachs as they sat by the flesh pots. **VV 6-8** Any complaining that I do is complaining against God. For God is the one who has brought me to these circumstances. God is the one who has placed me here, unless I've been disobedient to Him. **V 10** Suddenly in this cloud that had been leading them, the glory of the Lord appeared. It doesn't declare how and in what manner, but it was no doubt an awesome kind of a display or demonstration. One of these days very soon God is going to demonstrate His glory in the clouds, as Jesus comes with clouds and great glory, demonstrating His glory in the clouds. **V 15** "Manna" means What is it? **V 23** They would grind the manna into flour and bake it into bread, or they would boil it and eat it like a cereal. **VV 25-30** The Sabbath was established and practiced before the law was given. The idea of six and one—six days of labor and one day of rest—had been established in their national life.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; Commentaries; pages 31-32)

God miraculously fed the Israelites as they traveled through the wilderness, but He gave them only enough for one day at a time (see Exodus 16:4). Through this, we see one of God's principles at work—that we are to trust Him each day for what we need that day and not worry about tomorrow. Jesus knew this principle when He taught His disciples to pray in Matthew 6:11, saying, "Give us this day our daily bread."

We all like to have what we need for today and plenty set aside for the future. It makes us feel secure to already have all of our provision in hand and not have to trust God for it. We rather enjoy being in control and having everything all neatly planned out, but God does not allow us to do that. Just about the time we think we have everything all figured out and that we have taken good care of ourselves, something happens we did not expect and we have to trust God anyway.

God said the Israelites could gather a day's portion every day so that He might prove them, whether they would walk in His law or not. Giving them what they needed as they needed it was His way of teaching them to trust Him and testing them to see if they would obey His commandments. If they did try to gather more than enough for one day, what they gathered became rotten and started to stink (see Exodus 16:20).

When we worry about tomorrow, we waste today. I believe that we become discouraged and think our lives are worthless because we have never learned to trust God one day at a time. Trust requires that we have unanswered questions. God's ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best. Trust God and learn to live one day at a time. As you do, you will enjoy life more than ever before.

Life Point: Many of us have real and pressing concerns about the future. We may be dealing with uncertainties in our jobs, our health, our families, or our environment. If you are anxious about what the future holds for you and your loved ones, the first thing you must do is make a decision not to worry. In the same way God provided manna for the Israelites in the wilderness, He will supply what you need today. Believe that He will show you what to do when the time comes. God wants you to know that what you need will be there when you need it. He encourages you to believe and enter His rest—just as the children of Israel rested from the toil of gathering manna on the Sabbath day (see Exodus 16:29, 30).

Putting the Word to Work: If you are in a position of leadership, do you have people who will be as Aaron and Hur to you, strengthening you when you are weary? If not, ask God to give you people like that in your life. The Everyday Life Bible.

Does God's Word Feel at Home in Your Life?..Colossians 3:16..

Many years ago when I was speaking in a particular church, the pastor informed me that because the church couldn't afford a hotel for me, I'd be staying that week with a family from his church. When I arrived at this family's home, the host met me at the front door, showed me my bedroom, and pointed out the bathroom and kitchen. Then the entire family ignored me for the rest of the week! If I asked the family members a question, they pretended not to hear me. When it was time to eat, they informed me that it wasn't their responsibility to feed me and that I could just take care of myself because they weren't there to nurse me. Words cannot describe how uncomfortable I was in that home! Everything that family did let me know that they wished I wasn't there. When that week concluded, I was so happy to move out of that miserable predicament! I pledged that I would never let myself be put in that kind of situation again. How about you? Have you ever stayed as a guest in a home where the people made you feel very unwelcome and unwanted? I remember that when this happened, I was studying Colossians 3:16, where it says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..." The chilly reception I felt in that home caused me to look at my own heart and ask, What kind of reception have I given the Word of God in my life? I wanted to know: Have I given God's Word the kind of reception it deserves, or have I ignored it and given it the "cold shoulder"? Does God's Word feel at home in my life, or does it feel unwanted? Have I rolled out the red carpet and given God's Word a grand reception, making it clear that I love the Word and am privileged to have it dwelling in my heart? In Colossians 3:16, Paul tells us that the word of Christ should "dwell" in us richly. I decided to go get my Greek New Testament and study the word "dwell" so I could determine what kind of reception I had given God's Word in my own life. I found that the word "dwell" is taken from the word enoikeo. The word enoikeo is a compound of the words en and oikos. The word en means in, and the word oikos is the Greek word for a house. When the two words are compounded together, they form the word enoikeo, which means to dwell in a house. This is the same Greek word used in both New Testament literature and secular literature to signify someone who takes up permanent residency in a home. The person is so at home and contented in this new location that he has chosen to make it his permanent dwelling place for the rest of his life.

So when Paul tells us to let the word of Christ "dwell" in us, he is beseeching us to give God's Word such a grand, welcoming reception that it literally feels at home in us and therefore comes to take up permanent residency! Does the Word have this kind of place in your life? Does it really "dwell" in you richly? Does it feel at home and comfortable in your life? Or is the Word of God treated like a stranger that is occasionally welcomed into your life as a visitor? Be honest! Why not make today the day that the Word of God comes to take up permanent residency in your life? Throw the door open, roll out the red carpet, and welcome the Word of God as a new, permanent resident in your heart!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

Is God's Word a priority in your life or just a sideline issue? How can you better give God's Word a grand, welcoming reception in your life? What steps can you take to make God's Word feel so at home in your life that it takes up permanent residency?

When Paul tells us to let the word of Christ "dwell" in us, he is beseeching us to give God's Word such a grand, welcoming reception that it literally feels at home in us and therefore comes to take up permanent residency! Does the Word have this kind of place in your life? Or is the Word of God treated like a stranger that is occasionally welcomed into your life as a visitor? Be honest! Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pgs 112-114) (Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Maps, Devotionals; Sparkling Gems From The Greek)