

Food

Part 3

The fuel for our physical body is the physical food that we need to eat to receive calories to sustain us to live and do the work of God. As we review the Scriptures we can see that the Lord had supplied His people, and He will supply us with our daily food so we can continue to live to serve Him and achieve His plans in our lives.

5- ¹³ *When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." ¹⁶ Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." ¹⁷ "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. ¹⁸ "Bring them here to me," he said. ¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children." (Matthew 14:13-21) Jesus had compassion on the people who were following Him so HE healed their sick people. And as the place where people met the Lord was a remote place, and it was already getting late, Jesus was not willing to send the crowds away to go to the villages and buy themselves some food. But He multiplied the bread and the fish to feed them. So the Lord here considered two reasons why He offered food to the people, *first*, late in time, *second*, a remote place far from any nearby source of food. Now many they link church meeting or teaching with giving food and they say that Jesus gave food. Jesus gave food because it was late and for the people to go and find food to buy and eat they need to go to a far place. The people they followed Christ and were willing to stay with him late not because He will give them food, but they were glad to hear and enjoy His teaching. When we mixed our church meetings and teaching sessions with food, we will find many people will come and attend as long as there is food. And many when they will invite to such meeting they will say 'Come there is lunch/dinner after our meeting.' So the focus will be shifted to the non spiritual thing and we need to be aware of that. Church gathering is not a restaurant that people go to eat, but a meeting that they will receive the word of God, the spiritual food, that will bring God's blessings in their lives as they obey.*

As Jesus was concerned about the physical need of the people and provided food for them when it was late and a remote place to find and get food. So we must do the same. But we must have discretion. As church we are not restaurant, and our main duty is to give the spiritual food and shift the people mind from their stomach toward the real food, the word of God. But when it is needed to give some physical food to keep the teaching session going on for people who are staying long hours and far from the resources of food then we need to do that.

Preparing food for every meeting and for every now and is a time, effort and money consuming, and if our resources will be exhausted into such direction then we have no more time, money or strength directed to do the real work of God because we are fully occupied and busy with food.

There is another occasion that Jesus provided food for the crowd. ²⁹ *Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside and sat down. ³⁰ Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. ³¹ The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of*

Israel. ³² *Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way."* ³³ *His disciples answered, "Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd?"* ³⁴ *"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they replied, "and a few small fish."* ³⁵ *He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. ³⁶ Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people. ³⁷ They all ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ³⁸ The number of those who ate was four thousand, besides women and children."* (Matthew 15:29-38) Jesus fed the people who stayed with him for three days. So when it is required that the people need to stay long hours for teaching session or for doing certain service unto God. Then it is better that everyone, who knows that he need to stay long time, shall prepare for himself/herself a light meal to sustain his body so he can continue to do God's work. Or the church for as such conditions like the above should think as Jesus thought ahead of time to provide food for those who are coming from far distance and staying long period of time.

Also we should notice that Jesus did not waste many resources to feed the people; only two kinds, several of loaves and small fish, he used to feed the crowd. In link to that many they will say we have to do more types because they are cautious what the people will speak and say about them, forgetting that food nutritional value is the same if they are preparing one type or multiple types. One or two types of meal that all people like and eat are the best option.

6- ³ *He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴ He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests."* (Matthew 12:3-4) Jesus justified that David and His men when they were hungry they went to the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, because David and his men they were fleeing from Saul who was after David to kill him, ¹ *David went to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech trembled when he met him, and asked, "Why are you alone? Why is no one with you?" ² David answered Ahimelech the priest, "The king charged me with a certain matter and said to me, 'No one is to know anything about your mission and your instructions.' As for my men, I have told them to meet me at a certain place. ³ Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find."* ⁴ *But the priest answered David, "I don't have any ordinary bread on hand; however, there is some consecrated bread here—provided the men have kept themselves from women."* ⁵ *David replied, "Indeed women have been kept from us, as usual whenever I set out. The men's things are holy even on missions that are not holy. How much more so today!" ⁶ So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the LORD and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away."* (1Samuel 21:1-6) God provided food for David and His men from the house of God because they were in the mission and doing the very work of God. They were in distress and emergency and the Lord provided them the food they need to sustain their physical body to go on and continue to serve Him.

My Dear and Beloved: God is caring and loving for you, and He wants you to be in the same mind of Him. Trust Him that He will provide for you what you need from food to sustain your physical body to serve Him and to fulfill His purpose in your life as long as you are willing to go forward and agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself fully to serve your purpose in my life. Lord increases my faith and my trust in you to believe every word of yours and apply them in my life to be your good and effective servant, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.