

Food

Part 4

God is caring for us by providing for us our daily food that we need to ingest to give us the calories and strength required to live our lives unto Him. We care for our bodies by eating the good food that God give us. As well as we need to be good steward for the food that God give us, not to waste, but to save and share with others.

6- ¹Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.” ³Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, ⁴while he himself went a day’s journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” ⁵Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” ⁶He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” ⁸So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. ⁹There he went into a cave and spent the night.” (1King 19:1-9) God was so caring for His servant Elijah. As he fled from Jezebel who was after him to kill him, God was caring to him by providing for him the right food to strengthen his body for the long journey that is ahead of him to take. “A cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water.” That was God’s provision for him to take and eat. The angel of the Lord woke him up twice to eat and drink to be strengthened to go and continue His journey in serving God. The same for you, food is required for you to take so that you can continue to go on and do your responsibilities and assignments toward God and toward the people.

7- ¹Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), ²and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. ³Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴The Jewish Passover Feast was near. ⁵When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Eight months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” ⁸Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, ⁹“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” ¹⁰Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹²When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” ¹³So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.” (John 6:1-13) Jesus cared for those people who were coming after him and He fed them with bread and fish. But when they had all had enough to eat, Jesus said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” Jesus wanted them to realize that they should not waste any food. He wanted to teach them and give them good listen of how to be good steward and how to save and preserve food. Is Jesus teaching them that because He cannot multiply again the bread and the fish when it is needed? No, He can multiply, but the disciples and the people and I and you will not learn the value of saving food. Not only on food we need to apply this principle but as well as to other things. We need to apply on money, water, electricity, time, etc.

8- ¹²Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” (Luke 14:12-14) Jesus is not speaking about making luncheon and dinner and inviting others. Jesus is telling when He is blessing you, you also bless others. But whom you will bless? Jesus is using such figure, **the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind**, is speaking about the people who are in distress; who are facing crises and emergencies, like having chronic sicknesses, jobless, disabled with infirmities, etc. Such people we need to help. Those people they are not in the position to give, you need to give them in order for you to bring them out of the emergencies of their lives. So you have to give them relief and then after their recovery they need to be rehabilitated to manage life and finally you train them and equip them to be fruitful and productive.

So Jesus did not mean that we cook and make banquets and invite such kind of people. Their problems will not be solved at all with such kind of behaviour. As well as we will not be able to be good steward if we keep sharing our time, food, money and strength on perfect people who does not need us to treat them and we do not need them to treat us. But we need to be moving to share with those who are in need and emergencies with what God had given to us, “A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.” (Proverbs 22:9) We need to share with them and direct our resource to meet their needs in accordance to God’s will and His good plans for their lives. The following food (Spiritual and physical) we can share:

- 1- We can pray for the people and intercede in their behalf and ask the Lord to reveal Himself to them and satisfied their needs.
- 2- We can share with them the message of Salvation, that Jesus had died for their sins on the cross to give them eternal life.
- 3- We can advice them and instruct them from the word of God so their problems would be solved and that they will have the right direction in their lives.
- 4- We can share with them material aids like sharing with them our food, give them dress to cover them, a place for lodging, transport to carry them, medical aid, medicine, etc

My Dear and Beloved: “Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the LORD delivers him in times of trouble.” (Psalm 41:1) God call us to be good steward for whatever we had received from Him and to direct our resources to serve and minister to those who are in distress to bring them near to God and cause them to be relieved. Such kind of attitude will lead us and enable us to provide and give services to the community who are around us. God call us to be a blessing to others. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” (Matthew 5:7) We will be fruitful and effective for every mindful act that we give to the people in distress whom the Lord had placed around us. Jesus said the following: “I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.” (Mark 9:41) Indeed we will be rewarded for every kindful act that we will do for those in distress as we are doing it unto the Lord as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died for my sins on the cross and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that gives me clear understanding about what you want me to know and to do for you. Lord I commit myself to care and nourish my body so I can go on and continue to serve you. I commit myself Lord also to be good steward of what you gave me from time, money, food and the rest of the resources to employ them to reach the lost, and help and rescue those in distress and bring them into the knowledge of the Son of God and to your good word and rewarding promises. Enable me Lord to do that and give me the wisdom and alertness to be always in line with you and your word, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.