



Rock Creek Baptist Church
Nov 12, 2017

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UnThanksgiving Dinner

What happens when we try and tell God
how to bless us?...

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Refresher: God's people, the Hebrews, also known as the nation of Israel, have been rescued by God from slavery under Pharaoh and have seen countless miracles (see the book of Exodus.) Today's story finds them eating food God gave them daily from heaven...and complaining about it. You could alternatively call today's message "The Crave Grave."

Here's what the manna (the food from heaven) was like:

Numbers 11:7-9

The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin. The people went around gathering it, and then ground it in a hand mill or crushed it in a mortar. They cooked it in a pot or made it into loaves. And it tasted like something made with olive oil. When the dew settled on the camp at night, the manna also came down.

Psalm 78:24-25

he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven. Human beings ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat.

There were extremely specific ways in which God provided this manna...

Matthew 6:9-13

"This, then, is how you should pray: " 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. '

Matthew 6:25-34

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store

away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

The Hebrew people are fully reliant upon God for their daily "bread" for their very existence.

Numbers 11:4

The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, “If only we had meat to eat!

Voices from the outside, from the fringe, are starting to influence the faith of God's people

Have you ever let outside voices, who don't share your faith, shake your faith?

Numbers 11:5-6

We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!”

The Hebrews are sorely mis-remembering what slavery was like!

Do you ever idealize a past God saved you from? Long for unhealthy things you are being spared from?

Numbers 11:10

Moses heard the people of every family wailing at the entrance to their tents. The LORD became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled.

Numbers 11:18-23

“Tell the people: ‘Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat. The LORD heard you when you wailed, “If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!” Now the LORD will give you meat, and you will eat it. You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days, but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it—because you have rejected the LORD, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, “Why did we ever leave Egypt?” ’ ” But Moses said, “Here I am among six hundred thousand men on foot, and you say, ‘I will give them meat to eat for a whole month!’ Would they have enough if flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?” The LORD answered Moses, “Is the LORD’s arm too short? Now you will see whether or not what I say will come true for you.”

This chapter answers the question, “what happens when I try and tell God how to bless me? When I make demands of God, tell Him He’s not doing things right?”

There must be a reason God doesn't give them meat beforehand...

Numbers 11:31-34

Now a wind went out from the LORD and drove quail in from the sea. It scattered them up to two cubits deep all around the camp, as far as a day’s walk in any direction. All that day and night and all the next day the people went out and gathered quail. No one gathered less than ten homers. Then they spread them out all around the camp. But while the meat was still between their teeth and before it could be consumed, the anger of the LORD burned against the people, and he struck them with a severe plague. Therefore the place was named Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had craved other food.

This wind is not carrying a blessing, it only looks that way to begin with...
The people died before they ever finished their plates!

Psalms 106:6-15

We have sinned, even as our ancestors did; we have done wrong and acted wickedly. When our ancestors were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses, and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea. Yet he saved them for his name’s sake, to make his mighty power known. He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; he led them through the depths as through a desert. He saved them from the hand of the foe; from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them. The waters covered their adversaries; not

one of them survived. Then they believed his promises and sang his praise. But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his plan to unfold. In the desert they gave in to their craving; in the wilderness they put God to the test. So he gave them what they asked for, but sent a wasting disease among them.

Coturnism: disease carried by quail that has varying levels of toxicity for humans...

Have you ever bitten off more than you can chew?

Had "buyer's remorse?"

Fought God to get your way and realized you've made a terrible mistake?

Sometimes we confuse wants for needs, circumvent God's plan as if He left out a crucial part that we must fill in.

It's okay to ask God for things, we should! But yet another to make demands of Him or circumvent His will.

What is your "poison quail?" What unhealthy thing are you grasping for that God would spare you from if you would just listen to Him?

Why not trust God today to provide what you truly NEED and surrender to Him the wicked cravings of your heart? May you instead be filled on the things of heaven.