

032 Food From Heaven

MEMORY VERSE: "man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD." Duet 8:3

SCRIPTURES: Exodus 15; 16; Deuteronomy 8:3; John 6:35

AIM: To teach that God provides for our every need.

God had made a path through the sea for the children of Israel. He had protected them from the sun in the day time and given them light at night.

Now they were ready to go to the land that God had promised them. But it was a long journey to the land where they were to live.

Some of the people began to get tired of walking. And the water they brought was running out. Everyone was getting impatient.

"We've had no water for three days!" the people complained. "We shall soon die of thirst."

Finally, in the distance they saw a pool of water. They rushed to get a drink, but their excitement turned to anger and disappointment. The water was bitter.

"We can't drink this!" they shouted in disgust. "Moses, what are we going to drink?"

Moses prayed to God. After Moses' sincere prayer, God showed him a tree and told Moses to throw it into the water. The bitter taste disappeared and the water became sweet and good! It was a miracle! The people were able to drink as much as they wanted.

The Israelites traveled on, but soon they were complaining again. "We're hungry," they grumbled to Moses. "We wish we were back in Egypt. There we had plenty to eat. Now you have brought us into the desert to die of starvation." The people never thought of asking God to help them. But when Moses prayed God did something very special.

The next morning when the people came out of their tents they saw, as the dew disappeared, something white, small and flaky all over the ground. They tasted it and it was sweet, like honey biscuits. They did not know what it was so they called it "manna," which means "what is it?" Moses told them, "This is the food God has given you. Gather as much as is needed for each household."

So the people gathered it. Some got more than was needed and some got a little less than necessary. Those who gathered more had nothing left over and those who gathered a little less had enough. Each home had just the right amount for that day.

Moses told them, "Don't try to store it overnight." But of course some wouldn't listen, and they left the manna out overnight. In the morning when they looked at the food it was full of bugs and smelled terrible. So they gathered the food each morning before the sun made the ground hot and melted the manna.

On the sixth day Moses told the people, "God has said there won't be any food from heaven tomorrow. Gather twice as much, and cook all that you collect today. Then set aside some for tomorrow." So they kept the food until the next day, and this time the food was good without any bugs or smell.

But some of the people did go out and look for food on the seventh day.

God was not pleased with those who disobeyed. He said, "How long will you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws? For I gave you the Sabbath, and therefore will give you enough food on the 6th day for two days, and on the 7th day you will rest."

Many years later when Jesus was on earth He repeated what Moses told the Israelites that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Jesus also said, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." The children of Israel had all their needs supplied so they could see first-hand how they could trust God's promises. We too have God's promises that He will supply all our needs.