

Exodus 16:14-15

(from Revell's Ministers' Manual,
1968, p. 305-306

USE RECORD-OVER

This is one of the Bible stories which fascinated many of us when we were very young. There was something mysterious about manna. Even ~~xx~~ the word means "What is it?"

The children of Israel were fascinated by the manna. Now the word "manna" stands for the spiritual food we need to really live with vitality and joy.

Jesus spoke of Himself as the living bread from heaven (John 6:31,51). The people were puzzled by that saying. Somehow Jesus' very self, His love, His insights, His spirit are the food we must "eat" if we are to survive and come victorious over all that comes to us. In this sacrament of the Lord's Supper, Jesus still asks us to let Him be our nourishment "unto eternal life." "Take, eat" is His commandment to all who follow Him.

A servant of Christ who thought much of this "food from heaven" said that the story of the manna, which was provided for the ancient people of God in their long, ar-

11/3/68 - allison, Colo. 845 am

duous trek, says three things to us about Christ the heavenly bread.

1. First, every one of us must gather his supply of the food for himself. You cannot be nourished by Christ if you do not take Him into your life. Moses said the Lord commanded, "Gather of it, every man of you..." (Exodus 16:16, RSV)

2. Secondly, each of us can receive only what we need today. We are to take "...a day's portion every day" (Exodus 16:4 RSV). "Give us this day our daily bread" may be translated "Give us today the food we need." We do not need to know everything for the march ahead, and there is a limit to the amount of food we can absorb. "Daily food for daily needs" is the word for our inner lives as well as for our bodies.

- 3. God's food for our minds, our souls, our bodies must be gathered fresh every day. Said the Lord to Moses: "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's

... have three things to
us about Christ the heavenly bread

1. First, every one of us must
rather his supply of the food for
himself. You cannot be nourished
by Christ if you do not take him
into your life. As said the
Lord elsewhere, "Whoso eateth of it,
ever man of you, shall have life
(John 6:51)"

2. Secondly, each of us can
receive only what we need today.
We are to take it as a daily portion
every day. (John 6:27) Give
us this day our daily bread, may
be translated "Give us today the
food we need, for we do not need to
now everything for the future
ahead, and there is a limit to the
amount of food we can store."
"Daily food for daily needs is the
word for our inner lives as well as
for our bodies."

3. Thirdly, the food for our souls, our
souls, our bodies must be obtained
fresh every day. "Bread the Lord to
me; for I will not eat bread
from thence for you; and the people
shall be out and enter a daily

portion every day..." (Exodus 16:4, RSV). Religion is not just a legacy, a carryover from an earlier time. So often we are tempted to live on what we or our predecessors have "stored up." But we need to partake of spiritual food every day. A famous evangelist and church leader of a past generation was on board a ship, which was battered by a severe storm. Everybody seemed to be praying except this Christian preacher. Asked why he was not praying, he answered "I'm all prayed up already." He had gathered the manna fresh that morning!

An old hymn has these words:
"Bread of heaven, feed me, 'til
I want no more." Christ is willing
to do just that. Are we willing to
let him? "Take, eat..."

Handwritten notes at the top of the page, including a page number '2'.

The first paragraph discusses a letter from an elderly man, mentioning the date 'Nov 17, 1964'. It talks about the writer's age and how it affects his perspective on life. The text is mirrored, appearing to be bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper. The visible words include 'letter', 'elderly', 'man', 'Nov 17', '1964', 'writer', 'age', 'perspective', 'life'.

The second paragraph continues the reflection on the letter, discussing the writer's feelings and thoughts. It mentions the 'writer's age' and 'perspective on life'. The text is also mirrored, appearing to be bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper. The visible words include 'writer's age', 'perspective on life', 'feelings', 'thoughts', 'letter'.