

Sermon Handout

The Bread of Life

Deuteronomy 8:1-3

- I. Jesus cites the manna passages
 - a. In response to Satan's temptation Mt 4:4 (Lk 4:4)
Citing Dt 8:3
 - b. In response to the Pharisees John 6:31
Citing Ex 16:4 (*cf.* Ps 78:24-25)
"To prove them . . ." Ex 16:4 and Dt 8:2, 16
 - c. Jesus claims to be the true manna Jn 6:32-33, 35
Applies the OT manna feeding to himself: "I am the Bread of Life"

- II. Deut 8 starts with two commands vv. 1-2
 - a. **Observe to do** all my commandments v. 1
 - b. **Remember** God's providential care v. 2
Man's tendency is to forget God's providence
A naturalistic view of the world is a constant temptation vv. 10-14
Prosperity is a gift – it is not our own doing
 - c. "Consider in thy heart . . . [and] walk in his ways and fear him" vv. 5-6

- III. Humility and gratitude
 - a. God humbled them with hunger and then fed them bread v. 3
They were to learn their dependence upon God; he cares for his people
 - b. Three purposes of the providential lesson v. 16
 - i. To humble thee
 - ii. To prove thee (obedience demonstrates faith) Is 29:13; Mt 15:1-9
 - iii. To do thee good
 - c. We are thereby called to live gratefully Ps 107:8-9; 98:3-4 *cf.* Lk 1:53-54
Remembrance enables us to stay on the righteous path vv. 2, 18
Forgetting & disobedience are linked vv. 19-20
Our thinking drives our actions Prov 23:7; Rom 1:18-23
A heart devoted to God wants to obey and fear him

- IV. Remembering the True Manna
 - a. God gave Israel manna at the beginning of the day Ex 16:8, 13-15, 21
To humble, prove, remind, do them good
 - b. Jesus give us bread (himself) at the beginning of the week Acts 20:7
The Eucharist humbles, proves, reminds, blesses (strengthens)