

4. Give us today our daily bread

Matthew 6:5-13,25-34,7:7-9

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”
(NIV Mt 4:4)

He was quoting Moses:
[The LORD] humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

(NIV Deut 8:3)

A terse petition

And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. (NIV Mt 6:7)

This petition is almost shocking in its brevity

Give us today our daily bread

The kingdom is both to come and present now.

A terse petition

Give us ...

...today...

... our daily bread

Action, time, object

Give us...

A mugger's licence? ✗

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. (NIV Mt 6:8)

A sluggard's charter? ✗

“If a man will not work, he shall not eat.” (2 Thess 3:10)

The sluggard craves and gets nothing,
but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

A sluggard does not plough in season;
so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.
(NIV Prov 13:4, 20:4)

Give us...

He brought us to this place and **gave** us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now **I bring the firstfruits of the soil** that you, O LORD, have **given** me.” Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. And you and the Levites and the aliens among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has **given** to you and your household. ... Look down from heaven, your holy dwelling-place, and bless your people Israel and the land you have **given** us as you promised on oath to our forefathers, a land flowing with milk and honey.” (NIV Deut 26:9–11,15)

Give us...

Unless the LORD builds the house,
its builders labour in vain.

Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchmen stand guard in vain.

(NIV Ps 127:1)

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

(NIV Mt 7:11)

A childlike declaration of trust and gratitude to the Father who provides all good gifts. ✓

...today...

Give us today our daily bread

Not some distant future aspiration (Mt 6:10a)

Not worry about tomorrow (Mt 6:25-34)

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (NIV Mt 6:34)

Travel light

...our daily bread

Old Testament resonances

Manna in the wilderness

Unleavened passover bread

Showbread before the lampstand

Bread sustains life in the wilderness

Milk and honey belong to the land of promise

Luxury is dangerous (Luke 12:16-31)

...our daily bread

Bread stands for the necessities of life; food, clothing, shelter, family. (Matthew 6:33, 7:9)

But that is not enough to sustain spiritual life
(Matthew 6:25, 4:4)

Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”...Then Jesus declared, “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. (NIV Jn 6:27,35)

Give us today our daily bread

Is it dinner time?

Travel light

We need the bread of life.

Give us today our daily bread.