

Our Provider

"40 Days of Prayer" series- Part 03

Connect: If you were stuck on a deserted island and could have only ***one*** food substance, what would it be? Why?

Hook:

I read the story about a man who had a dog named Lucy. When he fed Lucy, she would eat most of the food and then take the rest of it and bury it in the yard. One day she even buried the bowl along with the food. Lucy wanted to hide some food for a "rainy day". She didn't realize that as long as she belonged to her owner, she would always be fed.

Like Lucy, we often hoard what God gives us today because we don't trust Him to provide for our needs tomorrow. Tell of a time when you felt forgotten by God. What did you learn?

Jesus, in His model prayer, tells us that we can come before God boldly because He is our perfect Father. He reminds us that our Father is also a King and He has a Kingdom...in Heaven and on the earth. Today as we continue in our study on the Model/Lord's Prayer, we find that Jesus tells us to come to this wonderful King and Father for our daily provision.

Matthew 6:9 Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy.

Matthew 6:10 May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:11 Give us today the food we need,

Book:

Genesis 45: 8 So it was God who sent me here, not you! And He is the One who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt.

Gen 45:9 "Now hurry back to my father and tell him, "This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all the land of Egypt. So come down to me immediately!

Gen 45:10 You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me with all your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you own.

Gen 45:11 I will take care of you there, for there are still five years of famine ahead of us. Otherwise you, your household, and all your animals will starve."

Gen 45:12 Then Joseph added, "Look! You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that I really am Joseph!

Gen 45:13 Go tell my father of my honored position here in Egypt. Describe for him everything you have seen, and then bring my father here quickly."

Gen 45:14 Weeping with joy, he embraced Benjamin, and Benjamin did the same.

Gen 45:15 Then Joseph kissed each of his brothers and wept over them, and after that they began talking freely with him.

Gen 45:16 The news soon reached Pharaoh's palace: "Joseph's brothers have arrived!" Pharaoh and his officials were all delighted to hear this.

Gen 45:17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers, "This is what you must do: Load your pack animals, and hurry back to the land of Canaan.

Gen 45:18 Then get your father and all of your families, and return here to me. I will give you the very best land in Egypt, and you will eat from the best that the land produces."

Gen 45:19 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers, 'Take wagons from the land of Egypt to carry your little children and your wives, and bring your father here.

Gen 45:20 Don't worry about your personal belongings, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours."

Gen 45:21 So the sons of Jacob did as they were told. Joseph provided them with wagons, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he gave them supplies for the journey.

Gen 45:22 And he gave each of them new clothes—but to Benjamin he gave five changes of clothes and 300 pieces of silver.

Gen 45:23 He also sent his father ten male donkeys loaded with the finest products of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other supplies he would need on his journey.

Gen 45:24 So Joseph sent his brothers off, and as they left, he called after them, "Don't quarrel about all this along the way!"

Gen 45:25 And they left Egypt and returned to their father, Jacob, in the land of Canaan.

Gen 45:26 "Joseph is still alive!" they told him. "And he is governor of all the land of Egypt!" Jacob was stunned at the news—he couldn't believe it.

Gen 45:27 But when they repeated to Jacob everything Joseph had told them, and when he saw the wagons Joseph had sent to carry him, their father's spirits revived.

Gen 45:28 Then Jacob exclaimed, "It must be true! My son Joseph is alive! I must go and see him before I die."

Look:

God would use Joseph to not only provide food for the nation of Egypt during a severe famine, but also to provide the necessary provisions for the nation of Israel to continue. Let's look at this story and take note of the things that can prevent us from experiencing the full provisions of God.

1. Read verse 45:24 again. What might they argue about? How might a quarreling spirit prevent us from experiencing God's best?
2. How would the brothers report to their father that his son, Joseph, was still alive in Egypt and not skirt the truth? Is confession and repentance necessary to receive God's provisions?
3. In verse 45:26, Jacob does not initially believe their report. Why not? How can doubt affect our expectation that God can provide?
4. In verse 45:48, Jacob, a very old man, must uproot himself and move hundreds of miles into a foreign land and culture. How might "change" encourage or discourage us from receiving God's provision?
5. What are some benchmarks by which we can gauge whether we are too focused on our own stuff and not our relationship with Christ?
6. How can a person who has suffered many hardships honestly believe in the goodness of God?

Took:

What has God taught you this past week during your times of prayer?

How can you pray for your group this evening and this week?