

Our Daily Bread
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"And the people spoke out against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.'" Numbers 21:5

The Children of Israel had been in the wilderness for quite some time, and their gratitude had worn thin. Their complaints were... not fully accurate. They claim that there is no food or water... but then they note that they hate this "worthless food." That "worthless food" was Manna. The bread of wonder. Adam, in the Fall, had been told he'd have to wrest his bread from the ground by the sweat of His brow, and yet in the wilderness God gave the children of Israel Manna with no labor.

It wasn't that things were nearly as bad as they were making it out to be; rather they were bored, entitled, and had lost their sense of wonder at what God had provided them. In the wilderness, yet cared for and alive (even with clothing that did not wear out), it seems so strange that they would complain.

And yet, let us consider our own lives - for we pray that God still give us our daily bread, and He does. How quick are we to get bored of what we have and not see the wonder therein? How often are we quick to assume that we ought to have more and more, and cast jealous, covetous eyes upon what our neighbor has? How often can we be petulant and despise the good gifts and opportunities that God has provided us right here and now?

God gives gifts. He gives us gifts of both body and soul. And what we ought to remember is that Satan does his damndest (literally) to so twist us that we despise and reject God's gifts. No, taste and see that the Lord is good - that He has still provided for your life. But even more so, in Christ Jesus' death and resurrection, He has provided you forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Hardship can remind us of how good God actually is, and He is always ready to have mercy upon His people.