

5. BREAK THE MANNA MENTALITY - 2



Read: Joshua 5:10-12

1. INTRODUCTION

The children of Israel crossed the Jordan in full view of the enemy stronghold of Jericho, which lies in the great open plain (3:16). From this city, especially from the vantage point of its walls, the whole Jordan valley from Adam to the Dead Sea was visible. After the Children of Israel had crossed the river Jordan in that great miracle, and were camped at Gilgal, they did six things before taking possession of the Promised Land:

- Ö 1. Their faith put fear in the hearts of the Enemy (2:2-11; 5:1)
- Ö 2. They stopped but they didn't stay (4:20-24)
- Ö 3. They renewed their commitment to the covenant with God (5:2-9)
- Ö 4. They remembered their roots (5:10)
- 5. They destroyed the manna mentality (5:12)
- 6. They worshipped the Lord

They did all these **six things**, before they fought one battle, before they attacked one city stronghold. All these things were done in full view of the enemy (3:16). These are principles that we need to follow prophetically.

The fifth thing the Israelites did, after crossing the Jordan, was to **break the manna mentality**.

Josh 5:10-12 “On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. 11 The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. 12 The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan.”

In verse 11, they ate the fruit of the Promised Land for the first time. The next day, the manna stopped forever.

2. BREAKING THE MANNA MENTALITY

This is the **second part of this subject** and is intended to encourage Believers to lose their fear of change, because that is what God requires of His Church today.

a. Three ‘Lands’

1. There are 3 types of land in which Israel lived:

- **Egypt**, the land of not enough;
- **The desert**, the land of just enough;
- **Canaan**, the land of more than enough.

2. Each land has a particular meaning, which we need to consider:

- **Egypt** is the land of not enough. If you're not a Christian, it doesn't matter what you do to satisfy the emptiness in your heart. Whatever you do will never succeed. There's not enough in Egypt.

But, Jesus can satisfy the thirst in your heart, and change your life **this very day**.

- **The desert** is the land of only just enough, i.e. just enough to get you through. Remember the manna mentality is "only me and mine". Forget everyone else, "I'm going to Heaven by the skin of my teeth." If you haven't had the previous message in this series, you need to get it and go through it prayerfully.
- **Canaan** is the land of more than enough, the land of abundance:

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38). God is our God of abundance!

b. Overcomers

Do you want to live the Canaan way? Then it's going to cost you ... but it's worth the price. Please remember that manna was God's good, not His best. It was never in His plan for Israel (refer to the last message). Manna was survival food; it just kept the people alive in the desert.

Many people live their lives just surviving, but unfortunately so do many Christians! God doesn't want this. He wants you to be *'more than conquerors through Him who loved us.'* (Rom 8:37).

Instead of just surviving, be a Believer! Believers are overcomers; they are victorious. They don't bow down to circumstances; they don't give in to the lies of the devil. They feed on faith food, which causes them to pull down cities and knock down giants - they pulled down their 'Jerichos' and knocked down their 'Goliaths'.

Before they crossed the Jordan, the battles Israel were engaged in were responses to actions against them. They were reactive not proactive. We don't wait until the devil starts going for us; we're called by Jesus to **batter down the gates of hell and overcome!**

c. Defenders

Manna Christians, though, are defensive, they fight only in response to situations. They fight only enough to stay alive; never initiating attacks on the principalities and powers on this Earth, or in the heavenly realms.

Manna was security food. In Exodus 16 we read that manna came down at night, and all they had to do was go outside their tents and there it was. All they had to do was pick it up. They didn't have to fight for it, they didn't have to work for it, and they didn't pay for it.

Manna Christians are like this. They are afraid to change from what has always been, because they need or even like the 'security' of sameness.

d. Why should we change?

Because the way people respond, is the way churches respond. How many churches are manna-minded: afraid to move with the Holy Spirit; keeping things as they have always been, because of security. This is manna Christianity - security in sameness.

This is a very easy situation to fall into, but it hinders our progress in God.

Some Christians say *"Yes we know it's: boring; always the same; predictable."* They go to church on Sunday and come home depressed ... *"but at least it's secure!"*

Most of us have been there, so we should know how badly manna mentality can 'poison' God's people; in things such as **"we've always"**:

- done it this way,
- given this much,
- run our meetings this way,
- sung these songs.

e. Damage to the Church

The manna mentality of security of sameness, has damaged the Church, and caused it to acquire:

- a norm that is totally abnormal,
- a tidiness that is unscriptural (everything has to be neatly packaged – spoon-feeding),
- an ordinariness that is unbiblical.

When the Holy Spirit comes into a congregation, there is life, blessing, salvation, healing, and movement. He is no respecter of person, planning or tradition. If you want to stay in manna mentality, never invite the Holy Spirit into your church.

Yet, some churches/individuals don't want to move. Why? The usual reasons are:

- *"Why spoil a 'good' (i.e. 'safe') thing?"*
- *"Why take risks?"*
- *"Why take that step of faith? – it'll cost me!"*

- “What about my friends and family - what will they think?”
- “Why bother to pull down Jericho?”
- “Why enter the Promised Land? – there may not be enough food to eat and we might not have the strength to pick it!”

“At least we have manna, and it’ll never demand anything from us!”

f. Stop mourning the past

Many in the Church today mourn for the past. This hinders God from unlocking the potential in His people to do His work in **this** generation. How can anyone ever feel able, when they have to stand up and be compared with the likes of Smith Wigglesworth, Charles Spurgeon, Martin Lloyd-Jones, and John Wesley? This is positively unbiblical pressure

Even today, Pentecostals still mourn the passing of Wigglesworth; for evangelicals it’s Spurgeon and Lloyd-Jones; for Methodists it’s Wesley. Why?

If we are to remember these remarkable men, then let it be for their incredible ability to be pioneers, who didn’t eat manna. They ate faith food, and were prepared to step out and risk all for God, in order to change their generation. But, it was for **their** generation, not ours!

g. God works in our present

1. Stop focusing on the past

We have to stop focusing on the past – learn all we can from it – but realise we live in 1998. The message is the same, but the **method is going to be different**. Many have held onto old methods, old institutions, and hung around dead churches. Yet, God is doing new and special things today:

*Isa 43:18-19 “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a **new thing** [something not done before]! Now it springs up; do you not **perceive** [understand by seeing/looking for] it? ...”*

We need to seek out the new thing that God wants. Sometimes it might be modifying what has been done. Sometimes, though, it might require us to use the ‘sword’. Look at King Hezekiah; he found favour with God because he first destroyed the places of idol worship, but then he did something very unusual:

*2 Ki 18:3,4 “And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done. 4 He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image **and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made**; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan [meaning ‘bronze serpent’ or ‘unclean thing’].”*

This serpent had healed the people of God in the desert (Num 21:9). Then it worked, but the Israelites had kept it and ended up worshipping a method used 7 centuries earlier.

Hezekiah found favour in God’s eyes by living in the present and not the past. The past

method really had been God; but by holding onto it, the people had turned a valid method of God into idolatry. Let us not fall into this trap.

2. Release God in our generation

One of the keys to releasing the glory of God in this generation is total uninhibited praise and worship. This means first releasing yourselves, before you can help others. Every revival that has ever been recorded starts with a release of fresh, new worship.

In the Psalms, the phrase 'new song' is used 6 times. The word for 'new' is 'chadash' meaning 'fresh, new thing'; in essence, something that has not been done before.

King David was a man of 'new' songs. He made instruments for worshipping God, and he wrote songs – as you can see from the Book of Psalms. He also created the music and taught the musicians. The Holy Spirit has seen to it that we have all the words of the Psalms carefully preserved. But, this same Holy Spirit has not allowed any of the music to survive. Why? Because we would have probably ended up making the music an idol and, worshipping it as 'holy music'.

h. Let's Break out!

1. You can break free

I don't want to live a 'manna' lifestyle. I want to take risks for Jesus. I really do want to eat faith food that will cause me to pull down strongholds and deal with giants in Jesus' name.

Look for God to move in your life. When **you** begin to **believe** that **you** can be a channel of blessing for someone else, then you will break out!

Seek after that 'rhema' word from God. Remember, "*Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the [rhema] word of Christ.*" Rom 10:17

It takes only one 'rhema' word to change a nation. Will you ask God for it? If we do, then we, together with all the other Canaan Christians in Luxembourg, will see this Nation changed, as we break out of manna, and start feasting on the faith food from God.

2. Example from Scripture

A closing example would be the account of the Disciples in the boat during storm:

Mat 14:22-29 *"Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. 25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to*

come to you on the water." 29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus."

In this account, the 'logos' stood on the water. In John 1:1, Scripture clearly says that Jesus is the 'Word' = the 'logos', which is the general revelation of God.

In the Gospels, not everyone who came into Jesus' presence was changed. Similarly, not everyone who reads the Word of God - the 'logos' - is changed.

In this account, the logos stood on the problem - the stormy sea. There were 12 Disciples in the boat, but only 1 made any demand on the logos of God. Peter knew Jesus was:

- powerful,
- King of Kings,
- Son of God.

What Peter was saying was *"I know it works. If it s You, give me something to stand on, and get me out of this boat and let me walk to You."*

It was then that out of the logos (Jesus) came the 'rhema' of God ... *"Come!"* Just one word, when acted upon changes nations. Here, Peter acted upon the one rhema word of Jesus and went out of the boat. In fact, Peter didn't walk on the water; he walked on the rhema word of Jesus.

This is a wonderful, and yet simple, picture of how the rhema word produces faith. Those in the boat were happy to be in Jesus' presence, happy to be alive in the storm. One person made a demand on the logos, and experienced a miracle.

3. Personal rhema

If you have a storm in your life, look to the Bible, to God's logos, and believe, in your heart, that God has a promise there for you. *"I know there s one word that You can give me that I can stand on."*

Then, all of a sudden, the rhema word comes right out at you. It says, *"Here it is, stand on it!"* **That** is the word, which produces faith!

What demands are you making on the logos? You need faith to fulfil your dreams and take risks, or are you scared to take any risks? You need faith to be a pioneer, or are you just happy being a settler?

Faith food comes **out of** the logos, producing faith that creates your miracle in:

- healing,
- finances,
- family,
- work,

- relationship with Jesus

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