Dear Reader,

I am new to producing reading sermons. So, if you have any suggestions as to how I might improve my format or what I include – please email me at cdanielwilson@gmail.com. **I will warn you, that I do not use short sentences**. I will endeavor to work on this over time, but I don’t naturally write that way. However, you can easily break most of my longer sentences into 2 or 3 smaller ones where I have “…” or “–“ or commas. If you do the work on making it into smaller sentences – feel free to email it to me, and I am happy to share your work with others. I do have some of these available which people have sent me. I will eventually make them available as part of the normal manuscripts.

I have left my sermon manuscript formatted the way I normally write and read my sermons. They are colourful and written in conversational English. If you are a grammar nazi – then you will be frustrated with my punctuation and phrasing. However, once you read it out loud, you will normally be able to tell what I meant to say. SERIOUSLY, READ IT OUTLOUD. You will also see that I use a good bit of bold, italics, underlining and different colours to signal what are the most important things to say, and also to make it easier for my eye to pick up my place in the middle of paragraphs. I would recommend that you keep as many of those things as possible to help you keep your place. However, you will probably want to increase the spacing between lines. I highly encourage you to commit as much of the introduction or children’s illustrations to memory as you can, so that these can be delivered to the congregation with maximum eye contact.

**Where possible, I highly recommend that you listen to the sermon as I preached it at either the Nelson website or the website of North Shore.** I recommend that because that will also help hear the places where I added or skipped over material in the manuscript, and the places where I clarified my meaning. I have edited bits and pieces which I thought most important, but I have not sought to include all the additional material that comes to me while in the pulpit. I would practically have to use a transcription service for that. However, I hope and pray that this sermon will be a blessing to you and to your congregation. To God be the Glory!

Blessings in our Lord, Pastor Daniel Wilson

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**My Suggestions for the Order of Service**

Song before the service: #1B

Begin by expressing our faith: ***Our Help is in the name of the Lord our God, the Creator and Sustainer of all the earth!*** ***May*** Grace, Mercy, Peace and Love ***be yours*** from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

Let us praise the Lord in song - **#66:1,2,4,6 *“Come, everyone, and join with us” Vs 1,2,4,6***

***We will profess our faith using Nicene Creed (p 7)***  *Please be seated*

 *Heidelberg Catechism Lord’s Day 50*

*Let’s cont. to worship as we sing* **Song: #19 “O come, my soul, bless thou the Lord” *Vs 1,4,5,6,8***

***Congregational Prayer***

**Scripture Reading: Proverbs 30:1-9; Deuteronomy 8:1-5**

Let us respond to God’s grace and mercy in Christ, ***by generously and cheerfully*** giving to support God’s kingdom work thru His tithes & our additional Free-will offerings! ***( Deacons)***

*Let’s cont. to worship as we sing* **Our Song of Prep: Psalm #143 “Hear now my prayer, O Lord” *PLAY THRU?***

***Sermon Text:* Matthew 6:9-34 *Sermon Title: “We ask for Bread!”***

***Let us now sing a* song of Response Using the Lord’s Prayer*–*#511 “Our Father clothed with Majesty” *vs.1-5***

***May God the Father*** *bless you & keep you,* ***May God the Son*** *turn His face toward you & be gracious to you,* ***May the Holy Spirit*** *lift up his countenance upon you & give you peace!* ***Amen***

 ***Doxology*: #106 vs.1 +19 “Now unto Him”**

# Evening Sermon: “We ASK for Bread!”

Text: Matthew 6:9-34 Reading: LD50, Proverbs 30:1-9, Deuteronomy 8:1-5

**Introduction:** Parents, What would you think if your children came up to you and asked for food in advance? What if they said, “May I have a snack for next Friday?” You would ask, ***Pardon, Why?*** “Because I would like to have it ready” – ***Um, No.*** *You would tell them:* You can just trust Mom and Dad to provide food at the right time**.**

 ***And yet, don’t we do that often with God?***  We don’t trust Him to provide for tomorrow, or next week, or next month etc… so we worry and beg to have things in hand – ***as if having all the money we needed in hand makes us any safer!* Just as we should** not allow our children to stockpile food in their closet, so Our Heavenly Father doesn’t normally provide for everything in advance – *AND we have to learn to trust God’s Daily Provision!*

(**Review**) It has been 2 months since we were last in our Heidelberg Series… We are working our way through the Lord’s Prayer, and last time, we explored what it meant *to pray for* and *do* God’s will on earth as it is in heaven. We saw the two aspects to God’s will: **His declared/revealed will**: which are the Biblical instructions for how we are to live – ***And*** – **His Secret/Providential Will**: which is God’s foreordained plan of whatsoever comes to pass in this life. And we saw that when we pray this request, we are in fact asking God to make us Live more and More FOR Christ and more in line with His Word.

**The Lord’s prayer** flows naturally from dealing with the crucial matters of God’s Kingdom and Will to the crucial matters of our daily necessities. ***In the 4th request we learn that: We can only trust/depend on God, for our daily needs.***

*We will divide this request into two parts*

1. **The Daily Gift of Our Necessities** *(spend most of our time there)*
2. **The Daily Priority of God’s Glory**

*Let’s begin first with:*

# The Daily Gift of Our Necessities (REPEAT)

 ***In this first point, we look at the content or the different aspects of this request – and there are four of them: The four key ideas are = Give, Us, this day, Daily Bread***

* 1. **The First Word of this request is of crucial importance: *GIVE* x2**

I don’t believe that I can overestimate that word. *Because we don’t say,* Loan us our daily bread (as if we could pay it back in some way). *We don’t say*: Repay us with our Daily Bread (as if God were somehow already in our debt)… *Indeed, we don’t even say*: Pay us the Daily bread you OWE us! Because we don’t EARN anything from God except damnation and Hell. That is all we will ever deserve/earn on our own! Only in Christ does that all change. **In Christ,** we become children of God the Father and as such, we are recipients of His free grace and provision. Even as a parent feeds their child, so God the Father feeds His children; **BUT, even as we wouldn’t tolerate our children demanding food:** So, we must ask God to GIVE us what we need. We don’t demand, cajole, extort or borrow our daily BREAD. ***Rather, we ASK for a Gift!***

* 1. **The Second most important Words of this request are plural: Give *US… Our*** **daily bread**

Here we are again reminded of the corporate nature of this prayer. We are not to simply pray for our own needs, but the needs of our family and Church! Something we all need to be reminded of again and again – Life isn’t all about you or me or any one person! ***Life is ALL about loving and serving God.***

And the Us here is a reference to *the children* **of God**. Are you praying for the daily and regular provision of those in the church? Jesus said, “this is HOW you should pray…” *Which means that we Should ALL be praying for one another in the congregation, and for other believers around the world.* Obviously, we can’t know or expect to meaningfully pray for everyone, but we should pray for our own congregation as a daily practice. ***This prepares us perfectly for the 3rd aspect…***

* 1. **The Third Word gives us the timestamp/frequency of this prayer: *TODAY* – This Day (esv)**

We are to be asking for today. Now if I am only to ask for what I need today – what does that mean for tomorrow? Tomorrow I need to ask for what I need then and trust God to give it! ***It is like the example with our children***. I will not answer David’s request for a snack for tomorrow or a couple of days from now. I will tell him, yes it will be there when you need it. And you will find out what it is when it comes. Of course, I will tell him occasionally if we are going to do something special – but Raewyn and I don’t schedule out and guarantee specific snacks for our children (*and I would be very surprised if anyone did, because at that point the child is in charge!*).

Our heavenly Father is the same. He will provide in His time according to His will, and we have no right to demand provision or information regarding the future! As we read in Matthew 6:34, ***Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble!*** And Jesus said that in the context of explaining that God provides for the birds and the grass… *and are we not much more valuable than they?!* So, we can trust God to provide, by asking each day for exactly what we need, when we need it! ***Your anxiety/scheming won’t help you sort it out!*** *God will provide what is best!*

***Of course, this doesn’t mean that we can’t pray for Synod next year, or plans for next month. But we pray for the future in faith – not in distrust or in anxiety!***

* 1. **The Fourth Key term of this request is possibly even harder to swallow: *Daily Bread***

We all recognize that when we pray for Daily Bread, that Bread serves as what is called a synecdoche, the part represents the whole. Mankind needs at least bread, water, & shelter to live, and so when we pray for our Daily bread, we are praying for the necessities of life – that God would sustain us with what we actually need.

I don’t know about all of you, *But I am positive for myself and at least some of us* that we find it dissapointing that this verse doesn’t say “Give us this day our fattened calf” or Daily Desert/Gold… **or something**. It would be great if it had said, “Give us our daily Angus Sirloin with mushrooms, leeks, sautéed veggies, organic remoulade with seared shrimp and lobster tails. With garlic butter and bread… YUM!”

*You know what I mean?* But God doesn’t encourage us to ask for the best of the best every day! Jesus says – Daily bread… We can ask God to give us what we need for life. Eat to live, don’t live to eat... *sort of thing!*  Is it wrong to ask for more/special things? **No, as long as that is the exception and not the rule...** You see, implicit in the Lord’s prayer is the idea that if God tells you to ask for it – then He guarantees that He will answer you and will give you whatever is best for you.

But, as we saw in Proverbs 30, We are given the example of *Agur* specifically praying NOT to receive riches! *BOTH poverty and riches bring equally dangerous temptations!* We don’t want poverty lest we are tempted to steal and dishonor God, AND we shouldn’t want riches lest we forget God and trust in our wealth! Most of us would pray the first part: Please don’t give me poverty. But practically none of us would pray “give me not riches” We would pray, please don’t give me poverty and help me to use my riches to your glory – ignoring the danger and the temptation involved!

 **I AM THE SAME! I have often struggled with the windfall mentality** – Wouldn’t it be nice to inherit a fortune?! *But that isn’t honoring to God,* ***because what I am wanting:*** *is to have all I need so that I can get rid of the anxiety about tomorrow*. ***You & I* ALREADY HAVE *what we need to get rid of the anxiety about tomorrow!*** God doesn’t promise us the best, but HE DOES PROMISE that all will work FOR OUR Best! And as children trust their parents for daily food/shelter, ***So we must trust that* what God has determined is best *IS in FACT the very Best!*** The Health/Wealth Gospel is a lie! And this points us to the greater priority here… It isn’t all about us getting our Best Life Now… ***Everything in this life is ALL, ALL about God getting the glory.***

*And that leads to our Second point:*

# The Daily Priority of God’s Glory (REPEAT)

* 1. ***The timing and placement of this request shows the priority of God’s glory over your daily needs…* HOW?**

Because this request isn’t FIRST, we know that our daily needs are not first priority! **We don’t pray**: Give us this day our daily bread, Father, because you are in heaven, and we want your name to be Glorified etcetera… **No!** God’s power and glory doesn’t depend on whether you and I get our daily needs! **God’s Name** [*Father in Heaven*], **His Glory** [*Hallowed be your name*], **His Kingdom** [*Your kingdom come*], and **His will** [*your will be done*…]**are all MORE IMPORTANT than your needs!** They come first! *FAR, FAARRR too often, when you and I get anxious about God’s provision in our lives, it isn’t because of any failure on God’s part! It is because we have our prayers out of order! WE are putting ourselves first, and that makes God small!* ***Get that clear in your head!*** *God’s NAME, God’s GLORY, God’s Kingdom and God’s Will are MORE important than your daily needs,* ***INDEED, More important than your whole life!***

 This should change the way we think/pray on a daily basis!

 I have struggled to figure out how to explain this… *Your basic needs and your life are subservient to God’s Glory.* So, we should pray for God’s glory and kingdom and will before praying for our needs. ***Because it is much MORE important that we Honor God by our thoughts, words and actions than it is for us to have daily food, shelter and protection.*** Think of it this way – if your priority in prayer is God’s Name, Glory, Kingdom and Will, **AND THEN** your needs – then God can answer that prayer even if you were poor. Even if you were poor slaves, God may not provide much to eat each day, but God will be working to Glorify His Name, Kingdom and bring about His Will! ***Do you see what I am getting at?*** You can pray this prayer and see God’s provision even if you are in prison! Because He is exalting His name, extending His kingdom, and working His will in you and providing your basic necessities!

The Priority of God’s Glory over against our necessities makes all the difference in the world – or it should… Because we recognize, **God is not** being unfaithful if we don’t own a home. **God is not** being unfaithful if we only have one set of clothes (even if they aren’t very nice). **God is not** being unfaithful if we are in strife and suffering consequences for our sin! *God is glorifying His Name, Advancing His kingdom, doing His perfect will,* ***and providing what we need to serve and obey Him!***

**Conclusion: We have to remember that we are asking for a GIFT!** We don’t ask selfishly, we are to pray with/for one another for God’s provision EACH DAY – WE are not to be anxious, and we are not to base our confidence on what we already have – We simply rest in God’s power to provide our necessities and if we get more – ***Praise God!***

**Because the central issue at hand is not our provision/needs, but God’s Glory!**

**And these points lead us to one major lesson overall:**

 God alone is the source of all good, and He alone is the one who can enable us to enjoy anything! **Just look at the Catechism:** **This Lord’s Day** ***hits the nail on the head! Nothing you or I do can do ANY good without the blessing of God!!*** I love the way it words this: *Neither our work and worry NOR God’s Gifts can do us any good without God’s blessing!* You see, You don’t live because you eat and drink and get proper shelter. Let that sink in… You don’t live because you eat or drink or get proper shelter… You are only alive because God has decreed it!

***Moses went 40 days without food and water in the presence of God – and He was FINE!***

NONE of God’s gifts (food, shelter, family etc) will do us ANY Good Without God’s blessing, and WITH GOD’S BLESSING, YOU CAN SURVIVE WITHOUT ALL OF THOSE GIFTS IF THAT IS WHAT GOD HAS DECREED!

 The Biblical phrase which explains this concept is from Deut.8: ***You do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.*** In context, Moses was teaching the people, “God made you depend on Him for your bread every single day to teach you that it isn’t a supply of food that sustains you. *It is every word, every decree of God’s perfect will, which He utters*.”

 **If God says**, this man who has plenty to eat will die tomorrow – It will happen.

 **If God says,** this man who has practically nothing to eat but crumbs and bugs will live to be 80, then it will happen!

***You don’t live because you have life figured out – you live because God has it figured in advance!***

Therefore, that thrusts EVERY Believer *all the more* on the mercy and blessing of God to provide for each day as it comes. We are not to worry about tomorrow, we are not to be caught up with earning God’s gifts, we are not to be constantly looking for the latest greatest upgrade, *RATHER – we are to focus on the glory of God in giving His people what they need, when they need it.* ***That is what we pray for, that is what God will provide!***

And this certainty and this gift of provision is yours, thru the Lord Jesus Christ! If you are here this evening, and you don’t yet know Christ as your Lord – Repent and believe! *For only thru faith in Christ can you be made right with God, and only thru Christ can you receive God’s promises of provision and salvation for His children!*

If you learn this lesson, it is immensely freeing – For you can focus more freely on what God requires today, right now. And leave the rest to God! Humble yourself before the Mighty hand of God, casting your anxieties on Him, for He cares for you! **Amen.**