

Missing the Leeks and Onions

Dr. Charles Swindoll, author, senior pastor of Stonebriar Community Church and chancellor of Dallas Theological Seminary, said it:

If Moses' wife had a cookbook, it would probably have been called "One Thousand and One Ways to Fix Manna."

After all, manna was that heavenly dietary staple that rained down upon the wandering Israelites every single day – day after day for 40 long years. They had no other food, no other sustenance. Just manna.

No one needed to ask, "What's for dinner?" They knew. And they hated it. They grew weary of its sameness to the point that (according to Numbers 11) they utterly lost their appetite. They longed for the fish, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks and onions of Egypt; never mind that they had paid for those food items with their own slave labor.

Now, here in the wilderness, God supplied their every need, and it was labor free! They didn't grow the manna, hunt the manna or even pay for the manna. Every day, God simply laid it on their doorstep, so to speak.

As Swindoll put it, "Already having much, they now wanted more. Having plenty, they now wanted variety. Having tired of manna, they now wanted meat."

Exodus 16:4 provides an explanation for God's plentiful, albeit monotonous, provision: *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not"* (NKJV).

Swindoll goes on to point out that the manna, for which they should have been extremely thankful, was much more than just a blessing; it was a test! "It was God's examination, carefully planned, wisely implemented and administered on a daily basis,"

Swindoll noted, "God custom-designed the diet to be a day-after-day, week-after-week test of their obedience, their patience and their determination to persevere in spite of the monotony of the manna."

A simple way to say it, Swindoll continued, "is that life is so *daily*. God dispenses His test of manna daily provision to each saint in each generation, watching to see if there will be a heavenly appetite to accept a heavenly food."

What will you do with God's hand of provision today? Will you gladly receive it in gratitude, or will you grumble that it's just too much like His provision of yesterday?

God has blessed us with so much. Every day. Are we truly grateful, or do we accept His many, many blessings as routine or even monotonous?

Life is so *daily*. Will you thank Him for your *daily* bread?

– Beecher Hunter