

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

Elijah had just witnessed, with his own eyes, the answer of GOD by fire on Mount Carmel, and saw the resultant destruction of the prophets of Baal. Yet the smoke had hardly subsided and we find him hiding in the woods with no small dose of self pity and fearing the threats of a wicked woman. This is but a picture of the strongest of GOD’s children when they are left to their own devices. We often hear men boast of their faith and criticize others who do not measure up to their own feats. Yet we find in the scripture the recurring theme of great men being humbled by the chastening hand of GOD and being stripped of all confidence in themselves. We think of Job abhorring himself and repenting in dust and ashes, David lamenting his own willful dalliance with another man’s wife and the subsequent murder which was the result, and Peter weeping uncontrollably, having recently boasted of his steadfastness.

It would seem to the natural mind that Elijah would have been bold in the face of Jezebel’s threats, yet the LORD humbled him, and reminded him of his own weakness so that he might clearly see from WHOM his courage and strength truly came. Those who make great boasts of their exploits and their courage in the face of trial are strangers to grace, and ignorant of the weakness of the flesh. Every one of us is prone to self-pity and fearfulness, except that the LORD should deliver us from it. While the hand of the LORD is ever faithful to humble the sons of GOD and acquaint them with their own inadequacies, yet HIS purpose is greater than the mere humbling of them, rather it is through this humbling to lift them up. *“God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”*

Until a man is thoroughly acquainted with his own unfaithfulness, weakness, and fear he will never be made strong, for it is through weakness that GOD’s children are strengthened as Paul confessed, *“For when I am weak, then am I strong.”* It is then that they can do nothing but cast themselves upon the mercy of GOD. Well did the apostle say, *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”* This was not a boast of his accomplishments but rather an acknowledgement of the SOURCE of all of HIS strength.

The angel told Elijah to eat the bread that he had prepared for him because the journey which he was being sent on was *“too great”* for him. The sons of GOD are in like fashion called to sojourn in this world, and to make a “journey” which is “too great” for them to make, except that they eat the BREAD which is given to them. The LORD said, *“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever.” (John 6:51) “Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. --he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.”*

Elijah was able to go for forty days and nights after eating the bread which was given to him but he had to eat again. This BREAD which the sons of GOD are given does indeed sustain them in times of famine and leanness but this is a BREAD which they must continue to eat and by which they are fed continually by the LORD. A very common notion which exists among many who preach and confess what they purport to be the gospel, is that a man can get “saved” by a one time simple act of free will. Salvation is presented as though it is a singular transaction which they participate in and once they have it then all is well. The scripture indicates that *“the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.”* The sons of GOD are granted “salvation” according to the mercy of GOD who is pleased to deliver them from sin and darkness and set them on a journey which requires a constant source of SUSTENANCE. This SUSTENANCE is the LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF. HE is their SALVATION and the strength of their song. HE is pleased to lead them upon the mountain tops and the valleys of life, in times of darkness and in the most enjoyable seasons of light. The one constant throughout this journey which begins at the brink of hell and culminates at the gates of heaven is that HE is ever faithful, both when HE can be seen and when HE is pleased to hide HIS face. *“And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.”* Yes indeed this journey is much too great for any of the sons of GOD, we cannot know the way nor can our eyes behold the glory of that city to which we are called, except HE should guide us and keep us from falling we could never arrive at that destination. *“Thy free grace alone,”#11* **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net**