**Do Not Hoard; Trust the Lord**

Based on [Exodus 16:2-21](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Ex16.2-21)

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Lenten Midweek 3

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In the midst of a social panic, people tend to stock up on what they view to be the essentials. If you’ve visited the grocery store recently, you’ve seen empty aisles, or big empty sections anyways, of bleach, toilet paper, bread and meat, etc. And it’s no wonder, it is very rational for people--who have the means at their disposal to hoard the necessities of life--to use their means to do so at a time when their world faces unprecedented uncertainty for the future.

Once, a famous preacher brought the reality of our spiritual situation to terrible clarity when he preached that mankind were ***sinners in the hands of an angry God***. He made an issue of mankind's false sense of security in themselves. How can anyone feel secure when at every moment we stand before a God angered with our sin...who could at any moment he chose damn us on a whim?

Likewise, in times of earthly panic like today we become aware that we are mortals in the hands of a global network of dependencies. If any one of those dependencies should fail, it could trigger economic collapse that would trigger mass hysteria and desperation. Money could become worthless, and is worthless when there’s nothing on the shelves to buy...and all you have is what you’ve ***hoarded*** as long as that will last.

The Israelites who were sent to wander in the wilderness had no fixed pantries, and they were often grumbling to God’s servants about their lack of food. So God promised to send them daily bread in the form of mana, that would appear on the ground every morning for them to harvest. But God had put a condition on their harvesting. They were told to only gather enough for the day.

God knew of man’s tendency to depend on material goods...to turn to them and hoard them in the hopes of staving off death. ***And God knew how that tendency could be at odds with their dependency upon Him.***  So he put a daily limit on how much they should harvest. They were to only gather a day’s worth, so that they would learn to trust that ***He*** would provide them a new crop every morning. In this vein, Moses would later write that “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

For many people, death is the end. Hoarding up worldly goods becomes the last resort against it. They believe that after you lose your life ***all*** is lost. But to us who are being saved, our Lord has long taught us that there will be pestilences, pandemics, wars and disasters that will threaten the natural order of things. And it doesn’t take spiritual sight to understand the implications of these things. The world ***is*** and lately ***has become*** so interdependent, that a collapse of access to oil from the middle east, or a new virus, or a war breaking out on the other side of the globe could have and would trigger direct and perhaps dire consequences on people who felt safe and secure the previous day.

All this to say the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry. More than that, they can completely fail; and we know by prophecy that someday they will fail completely. Maybe not on account of our present pandemic, but someday it will again end as it did in the days of Noah, there will be a swift and shocking judgment upon mankind.

In that day, the best laid plans of man will fail. So God teaches the Israelites not to trust in their pantries, but to trust in Him who satisfies the desires of every living thing. And some 1500 years after their wilderness wanderings, Jesus while in the wilderness reminded us “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” And he also comforts us with his words to the crowds at Capernaum, “I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

Pantries and stockpiles can fail you, but the inheritance of the Lord is imperishable, stored in the sanctuary of heaven for those who believe. Jesus says, “**Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves can enter in and steal. Rather store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust cannot destroy, and where thieves cannot break in and steal**...where the supply of grace never runs out, where the cup of salvation always overflows, and where the bread of life always has basketfuls of leftovers. Do not trust in your hoard...trust in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.