



# Jesus is the true manna from heaven

Elder Charles Moore



*how Jesus came. It came from heaven. It was not imported from Egypt, or manufactured in the wilderness; it*

Our congregation has recently been working its way through the wonderful book of John and were studying the feeding of the 5,000 incident recorded in John 6. The Jews asked for a sign and referred back to the Exodus 16 event when manna fell in the desert to feed the Israelites for 40 years in the desert. Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. (John 6:35)

It has often been said that every page of the Bible points to Jesus and indeed Exodus 16 is one of those passages that clearly points to Jesus. However, what Jesus made clear in John 6 is that the manna was a type of Himself. Wick Broomall said that: "A type is a shadow cast on the pages of Old Testament history by a truth whose full embodiment or antitype is found in the New Testament revelation". So the manna in Exodus 16 is a *type* that points to Jesus, the true manna from heaven.

The following is an edited section of Warren Wiersbe's commentary on this incident and is something I truly

believe is best shared in his own words. Notice the various ways that he shows how the manna speaks of and points to Jesus.

*"The manna explains who Jesus is. The Hebrew word manna means "What is it?" the statement of the Jews when they could not explain this new food that God had sent. Consider how the manna pictures Jesus Christ: It was small, which speaks of His humility; for He became a baby, and even a servant. It was round which reminds us of the circle, symbol of His eternity; for Jesus Christ is eternal God (John 8:53-59). It was white, a reminder of His purity and sinlessness; He is the holy Son of God. It was sweet. "Taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8). It was satisfying and strengthening, for the nation lived on manna for nearly forty years. All that we need for spiritual nourishment is Jesus Christ, God's heaven-sent Bread. We are to feast on the Bread that will never leave us hungering."*

*"The manna illustrates*

*was given from heaven, the gift of God's grace. Jesus Christ came down from heaven (John 6:33) as the Father's gift to hungry sinners. It came at night. The people gathered the manna early each morning, for the manna fell at night. This suggests the darkness of sin in this world when Jesus came. It was night when Jesus was born, for He came to be the Light of the World (John 8:12). And it is still night in the hearts of all who have rejected Him (2 Cor. 4:1-4). It came on the dew. This is a type of the Holy Spirit for when Jesus came to earth, it was through the miracle ministry of the Spirit (Luke 1:34-35). Had Jesus not been born of the virgin, He could never be called "that Holy One." It fell in the wilderness. This world is not a paradise. To the unsaved person, it is a wonderful place, but to the Christian on his pilgrimage to the glory world is but a wilderness. Yet Christ came to this world in love to give men life. What grace! It came to a rebellious people. They had been away from the bondage*

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*of Egypt only six weeks and had already forgotten God's many mercies. They murmured against Moses and against God (see Exodus 15:22-27), and they longed for the fleshly diet of the old life; yet God in His grace and mercy supplied them with bread. Someone has calculated that to supply six pints (an omer) of manna each for two million people daily would have required four freight trains of sixty cars each. How generous God is to us! It fell right where they were. How easily accessible the manna was to the Jews! They did not have to climb a mountain or cross a deep river; the manna came where they were (see Rom. 10:6-8). Jesus Christ is not far away from sinners. They can come to Him at any time."*

*"The manna shows what we must do with Jesus Christ. We must feel the need. There is a spiritual hunger within that can be satisfied only by Christ (John 6:35). Much of the unrest and sin in the world today is the result of unsatisfied spiritual hunger. People are living on substitutes and rejecting the nourishment that God freely provides (Isa. 55:1-3). We must stoop. The manna did not fall on the tables or on the trees but on the ground, and the people had to stoop to pick it up. Many sinners will not humble themselves. They will not bend! They will not repent and turn to the Savior! We must take it for ourselves. The hungry Jews were not fed by looking at the manna, admiring it, or watching others eat it; they had to pick it up and eat it themselves. Christ must be received inwardly by faith if the sinner is to be saved."*

*"The spiritual manna (Christ) accomplishes more than did the physical manna that God sent to the Jews. The OT manna sustained physical life, but Christ gives spiritual life to all who receive Him. The OT manna was for the Jews only, but Christ offers Himself to the whole world (John 6:51). It did not cost Moses anything to secure the manna for Israel, but to make Himself available to the world, Christ had to die on the cross. How sad it is that most of the people in the world walk on Christ as if he were unused manna on the ground, rather than stooping to receive Him that they might live." Wiersbe, W. W. (1993). Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament (Ex 16:1). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.*

Please don't be one of those people who walks heedlessly by, ignoring Christ's free gift of eternal life. Instead, look down, look up, and "Taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8).

## Cyberspace News



Happy New Year everyone. I can't believe one month is gone with me writing 2013 already.

I got a call from Rip Ripley this month. He was concerned for all of us here. Norma was doing okay, as he was also. Norma had fallen a short way out of bed recently on a mat so she was not hurt which they were thankful for. He heard about David Charles' illness and Charlie's surgery and Brian's surgery. Thanks, Rip, for all the loving years you have prayed for all of us.

I talked to Berty Lane in Cave Creek Arizona and found the 4 Lanes fine. SheaLyn and Scott both love school and that is so nice to hear. I understand that even though Jon is Kane's boss they get along fine.

Lynn, Rob, Dan and Doug and Kristin Vaughn made a trip to Florida to warm up in January. They had a wonderful vacation.

Last month I failed to mention that Ethel Johnson had emergency surgery before Christmas and spent some weeks in the hospital recouping. She is doing well now. She and David Charles have been racing to see who can get well first. She is doing a good job right now.

Our winter retreat is fast approaching and we are looking forward to having some outlying folks there. I got a wonderful note from Arvilla Pease from New York and she was doing well. What a nice surprise in our mailbox!

May God bless you and yours is my prayer for each of you.



## Michigan Report

Tim Begeman

As a new year begins I think we can expect new adventures and challenges. Let me make some prognostications through some common oxymoronic locutions such as: unbiased news report, tax simplification, safe investment, absolutely unsure, political trust, political promise, misanthropic humanitarian, intelligent fight, bug-free software, fresh from concentrate, flurry of inactivity, economic forecast, bureaucratic efficiencies, educational TV, deregulation law, corporate conscience, cautiously optimistic, confident fear, and cheap gas.

We started off this month with our customary and ceremonial fellowship breakfast at church hosted by the lovely and extremely talented Diane Begeman. She served up some gourmet mini egg soufflés along with other breakfast fair. Diane set the standard for the upcoming year with a sumptuous breakfast banquet blowout. Her gourmet prowess is only surpassed by her effulgent beauty.

Later that same day we had our annual local church business meeting. We reviewed all the things we accomplished the last year, talked about some changes we made and some upcoming events for this year. We also all voted to elect the board members that had finished their terms. I was re-elected as the dual board member and Aurine was re-elected as well. Kathy Smeltzer was also elected as the last but not least member.

David Charles is still on the long bumpy pothole riddle road to recovery from his outpatient surgery he received in December. He is now at home in Monroe being cared for by his loving family. His recovery has been quelled and long overdue, due to an encounter with a number of infections. Now he is acquiring more robustness and getting out about on occasion to tease unsuspecting waitresses and to fill his lungs with fresh Michigan winter air.

We all celebrated Sydney Begeman's milestone sixteenth birthday on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January after church. We had many visitors who wanted to catch a glimpse of the guest of honor. She is currently not only working on getting her driver's license she is attending an accelerated high school combined with a college course program. Her push for being part of the intelligentsia is only exceeded by her luminous acumen. I think we all can expect big and exiting things from her in the future.

We did another visit at the Magnum Nursing Home this month joined by Church of God Seventh Day. The day we were there they were in the middle of an influenza outbreak so the usual place we did our service was closed off so we had no piano accompaniment. We made due with some A cappella singing in another area with a whole new crowd. Paul VanderHorst gave a short message that keep us all riveted. We were all blessed at the end.

Elder Moore is recovering quickly from his shoulder surgery he had in December. Hopefully, if we get some more snow on the ground Charlie can almost do full snow angels with his new shoulder.

Nate has been lying low lately because of the inclement weather and slippery conditions. He has been sorely missed at church and we hope to see him soon.

Brian Begeman went under the knife on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January to rebuild his right hip. He apparently wore it out with his numerous athletic activities. He will be laid up for about three days but soon will be frolicking on the court, rink, gym, track and dance floor before you know it. Speaking of dance, Brian is now free to join any River Dance troop he likes, to go on tour and show off his new magnatomic quantum dampening space age hip joint.

You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him.

James D. Miles

**CHURCH OF THE  
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**The Tates**

Do you know how many members of the **TATE** family belong to our organization?

There is old man **DICK TATE** who wants to run everything, while Uncle **RO TATE** tries to change everything.

Their sister, **AGI TATE**, stirs up plenty of trouble with help from her husband, **IRRI TATE**.

Whenever new projects are suggested, **HESI TATE** and his wife, **VEGI TATE**, want to wait until next year.

Brother **FACILI TATE** is quite helpful in group matters.

And a happy member is Ms. **FELICI TATE**.

Cousins **COGI TATE** and **MEDI TATE** always think things over and lend a helpful steady hand.

And, of course, there is the bad seed in the family, **AMPU TATE**, who has cut himself off completely from the rest of the organization.