

Weaving the Word

Manna Bred Worms

June 16, 2019

Welcome to where we're training for the test of faith!

Is your daily devotion vibrant or stale?

If it's on the stale side, you might be neglecting to share an appreciation and a sense of obligation for your many blessings; and, your trust and hope in His ongoing, all loving, care.



The Lord will give gifts to see what we'll do with them. And, He'll withhold them at times for the very same reason. It's *all* for our eternal best.



We're looking at Jesus a whole new way, last week and today, through the gifts of the healed lepers; a command of Moses, and a testimony of Jesus. (Mk 1:44) Just as Jesus is the Lamb, He's also the bird, and ... *the worm*.



A very specific, scarlet worm (that doesn't look like a worm), called "towla". It was crushed to make blood-red dye, a stain that represents our sin. (Is 1:18) You can still buy it (as Kermes) in vacuum packed bags.



The dye was used in the Tabernacle and the Temple. Towla' dye is even in the Dead Sea Scrolls. And, it had been long used in Egypt when *Moses* was there. And, Job (25:6) says that the *Son of man* is a *towla'*.



Jesus is referred to as the "Son of Man" 87 times in the Gospels. **His #1 symbolic reference** (and Jesus' favorite to use) **not only carries the image of the towla', but the burden of the cross to come.**



Jesus said, "When you have *lifted up* the *Son of Man*, **[who is towla']** then you will *know* that *I am the one I claim to be* ... – John 8:28 NIV



Because, it's on the cross when He cries out the title of Psalm 22, which paints an unnervingly accurate picture of the cross; wherein (22:6) God's firstborn son (Ps 89:20-27) cries out: "***I am towla' and no man!***" Because, as Job (25:4-6) says: **man is rimmah/maggots/baby towla'.**



Because, **man is reborn through the death of *our towla'***. And now, if the Lord says, "I am towla'," and the Lord *created towla'*, it's probably wise to take a field trip!

Like Christ, the towla' mama attaches to a tree, loses the use of her legs (thus becoming a *worm*), forms an upside down cup and pours out her life as food to a multitude of children and dies.



But over three days, **she turns powdery white**, with the appearance of frost or snow or ash, and **falls to the ground like a hailstone**.

Isaiah (1:18) uses the towla' as the symbol of our scarlet red sin, that'll be made white as wool and snow, when our holy towla' comes.



Know what else fell like hail, and looked like frost or ash, (Ps 147:16-19) and was the size, shape, and colors of towla'?

Manna!

He established a testimony in Jacob, ["**thou towla' Jacob**" (Is 41:14)] ... but they sinned even more ... by asking for the *food of their fancy*. ... because they did not *believe* in God, and did not *trust* in His salvation. Yet He had *commanded* the *clouds above*, and *opened* the *doors of heaven*, had *rained down manna* on them to *eat*, and given them of the *bread of heaven*. Men ate angels' food; – Psalm 78:5, 17-26 NKJ

Manna translates as: What is it? Or in Aramaic: Who is it? Scripture absolutely answers both.

But some of them left part of *it* until morning, and it **bred** [brought forth; gave rise to] **worms** [towla'] and stank. – Exodus 16:20a NKJ

Which means it contained towla' rimmah/maggots for two days.

[But, after cooking it as commanded for the Sabbath] ... it did not stink, nor were there any **worms** [rimmah] in it. – Ex 16:24 NKJ

Only towla' breeds towla'. Manna bred towla'. And towla' matches the size, colors, and shape. So, manna: *What is it? Hmm.* Jesus came to reveal and fulfill the OT; so, let's let Him:

[After feeding the 5,000, Jesus said] "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the **Son of Man** [who is towla' (Job 25:6)] **will give you**. ... it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread [a.k.a. *daily bread*]." Then Jesus declared, "**I am the bread of life**." [And: "*I am towla'* (Ps 22:6)] – John 6:27, 32-35a NIV

And, Towla' is manna (literally *living bread* from the heavens).

[He goes on] Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. ... **I am the living bread that came down from heaven**. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. **This bread is my flesh**, [because, "I am towla'" and towla' is manna] **which I will give for the life of the world** [like the towla' mama on a tree]. Then the Jews began to argue ... "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" [Because this man is the Son of Man who is the Towla' that was the manna] Jesus said ... "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man [who is towla'] and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ... The Spirit gives life; the flesh [the temporary manna-towla' that they ate and died] counts for nothing. [Here's what we must eat and drink] **The words I have spoken to you** are spirit and they are life. – John 6:49-53, 63 NIV

The Word of God *is* the Bread of Life!

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. – John 1:14a NIV

He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and **his name is the Word of God**. ... On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. – Revelation 19:12-16 NIV

We're not feeding on Jesus as Lord till we're consuming His Word. We need to treat Him like our manna – our daily bread.

Which God gave as a blessing ... and a humbling ... and a test.



The Lord said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out **each day** and **gather enough for that day**. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.” – Exodus 16:4 NIV

How is unlimited, easily gathered, free food, a test?

Well, manna came with directions (and we *hate* those); outright commands for gathering, storing, consuming, and sharing. **It's not a test of endurance or sacrifice; it's a test of trust and faith and obedience in the face of surplus.** To see if they'd take it for granted, or continue to faithfully follow God's specific instructions. And share what they gathered. And trust that it'd be there the following day.



In the Lord's Prayer ... *Guide*, we're told to pray: “Give us ... today ... our daily bread [i.e. manna].” But, **we're so blessed today, we pray to resist the bread!**

Praying for “daily bread” would be asking God to give us less! Not a bad request.

Give me neither poverty nor riches, but **give me only my daily bread**. [A heart that's led daily by You; and not settled by me] Otherwise, I may have **too much** [and grow wise in my own eyes] and disown you and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ Or I may **become poor** [in the store of treasure of Your Word in my heart] and steal, [Your intentions for my inventions; Your objective for my agenda] and so dishonor the name of my God. – Proverbs 30:8-9 NIV

Could you pray this prayer? To build on last week: **Do you want to be set free ... from any riches, success, or fortune that distracts your devotion?**

[Moses warned] When you *have eaten* and *are full*, then you shall bless [praise] the Lord your God for the *good land* which He *has given* you. *Beware* that you do not *forget* the Lord your God [even for a single, busy, hectic, chaotic, overextended, day] ... – Deuteronomy 8:10-11 NKJ

Best be praying: Give us today our daily gratitude and compassion.

Otherwise, we'll get our maggot stink all over it. Apparently, God said, "Hmm; I know man; maggots won't do it – we better make it *really stink* too."

Know what maggot stink stinks like? *Neglect. Decay. Death.*



So, day-old manna had a certain *je ne sais quoi!*

Which is French for: "***I do not know what!***"; a.k.a. **Manna**, a.k.a. **living bread from heaven**, a.k.a. **towla'**, a.k.a. **the Son of Man**, a.k.a. **the Son of God**, a.k.a. **the Word**, a.k.a. **the Bread of Life**, a.k.a. **Jesus' body broken for us**.

The towla' mama's body was pierced and broken for her newborns. There's a wooly patch where she's attached to the tree, and one side breaks open as a door for her scarlet children to go forth. And, Jesus' side was opened, producing water and blood, to give birth to the church by cleansing the children of His body. (Jn 19:34)

The Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, **to humble you** [by allowing you to hunger] and **test you**, [by blessing you by feeding you] to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, **allowed you to hunger**, ["Don't give me too much; cause me to hunger and thirst for righteousness"] and **fed you with manna** [i.e. daily bread] **which you did not know** [what it was, where it was from, or when it might stop] ... that He might make you know that **man shall not live by bread alone**; [a satiated stomach and a satisfied life isn't the goal; it's a perk] but **man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord**. ... You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you. – Deuteronomy 8:2-5 NKJ

Blessings are a test; and they come with instructions.

Our goal is to learn to live *each day by every Word*; which requires collecting, and consuming, on *His* terms and timing. **We should read His Word like we're collecting manna-towla'.**

Give us *this day our* daily Bread-of-Life/Manna/Towla'/Savior.

And, give me only what You know I need; and, not the stinking thing I only think I want.

Day-old faith stinks. Day-old hope stank. Day-old love stunk.

There's no artificial preservative for faith, hope, and love.

All three need to be made to order ... *fresh ... daily.*

Or they'll have that certain *je ne sais quoi!*