



Sharing the Bread of Life A Devotion for the Food Bank Collection

Food banks touch the lives of people seeking assistance every day. They provide a basic necessity to those who are struggling due to many different circumstances. How does the Bible help us, as God's people, respond to this situation?

In the Old Testament, God instructed His people how to help the needy.

Leviticus 19:9-10

"When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God."

What can we do today to follow the idea of these verses, given that many of us buy our food at the grocery store?

What other ideas do you have for ways to provide for the hungry?

Is your local food bank on your grocery list?

Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors Him. Proverbs 14:31

How does God view our actions toward the needy?

Jesus encourages us to do good works, including the feeding of the hungry.

Read Matthew 25:31-46 - The Final Judgment

v. 35 *"For I was hungry and you gave me food..."*

Does the good work of feeding the hungry result in our being justified before God?

Note for vv. 35-36 (TLSB) "This story does not teach that people are justified before God on the basis of works. The sheep receive their blessing and inheritance from the Father before a single word about their good works is spoken... Good works are the result of salvation, not its cause."

In the New Testament, Jesus shows concern for our hunger, both physically and spiritually.

Read John 6:5-13 – Feeding Five Thousand

vv. 12, 13 And when they had eaten their fill, He told His disciples, “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten.

What does this account tell us about how Jesus provides for our need for food?

His concern goes beyond our physical need for food.

Read John 6:31-40 – The Bread of Life

v. 35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

What does Jesus mean when he calls himself “the Bread of Life”?

Jesus’ concern and care for us is always more than we can imagine.

v.40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

What is your response to this news?

Prayer: Dear Father, thank You for providing for our physical need for food and our spiritual need for the Bread of Life. Help us to be good stewards of what You have given us. Help us to be generous towards those in need. We pray that our local food banks will be able to provide for those seeking help. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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