

# (Exodus) Exodus 16:25-31

by J. Vernon McGee

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of breaking away from the world and living on the true manna, Jesus Christ, to be serviceable for God and have the peace of God in one's heart.*

**Duration:** 6:19

**Scripture:** Exodus 16:25-31, Numbers 11:4-6, Numbers 11:8, Matthew 16:13-14

**Topics:** "Expositional"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the significance of manna in the Bible. He starts by explaining that the Sabbath was given to the Israelites before it became a law, and manna was provided to them during this time. The preacher describes manna as a wonderful food that contained all the necessary vitamins and could taste like anything the people wanted it to. However, the mixed multitude among the Israelites began to complain and long for the food they had in Egypt, such as fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic. The preacher emphasizes that these foods lacked real nourishment and were merely condiments, unlike the manna which could be prepared in various ways and was not monotonous.

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## Transcript

Now, again, I want to follow down in this and just lift out that which is important as it relates to the manna. And we are told, I'll begin reading at verse 25, And Moses said, Eat that today, for today is the Sabbath unto the Lord. Today ye shall not find it in the field.

Six days ye shall gather it. But on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, in it there shall be none. Now, the Sabbath day, you see, was given to them before it was given in the commandments, before it became a law to them.

Verse 31, And the house of Israel called the name thereof manna, and it was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. How would you describe manna? Well, may I say to you, I do not know exactly how to explain it. I think it was a wonderful food.

It contained all the vitamins. I think that it tasted like about anything you wanted it to taste like. I think it was a very exciting food, no question about that.

And do you know that it was manna that started the mixed multitude complaining? I want to turn over to an incident in the 11th chapter of Numbers, which we need to look at here to properly understand manna. I

read it beginning verse 4 of the 11th chapter of Numbers, And the mixed multitude that was among them fell a lusting. And the children of Israel also wept again and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish which we did eat in Egypt freely, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic.

This, my friend, is what they missed in the land of Egypt. And everything they missed here was that which grew on the ground or under the ground. And they were all condiments.

None of them had real nourishment in it, like the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions and the garlic. And believe me, friends, when you eat all these things, you certainly are not very attractive. Someone has said an apple a day keeps the doctor away, but an onion a day keeps everybody away.

This is something made them very unattractive, not very appealing. These are the things that the people of the world eat, and they do not satisfy. You can see that it's nothing in the world but condiments.

And the mixed multitude, they remembered what they had in Egypt, and they wanted that food. And notice verse 6, But now our soul is dried away. There's nothing at all beside this manna before our eyes.

They said, Why, there's nothing to eat but manna. And every time they complained about it, and here is the second description that's given of it, is here in verse 7. And this is what we were after. And the manna was as coriander seed, and the color thereof is the color of bdellium.

It's as if God is saying here, or the Spirit of God is saying, Look, this is what the people despised. They got tired of eating fried chicken and ice cream and angel food cake. But that's what the manna was, all wrapped up in one.

And notice it wasn't a monotonous food. Notice this here, verse 8. And the people went about and gathered it. Now, notice what they could do.

They ground it in meals or beat it in a mortar or baked it in pans and made cakes of it. And the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil. Now, friends, manna wasn't monotonous.

They could fix it every way that was imaginable. They could grind it up. They could beat it in a mortar.

They could bake it in pans. Why, they could make a casserole of it. Oh, I think that there must have been out in that day Mother Moses' cookbook, a thousand and one recipes and different ways to fix manna.

Mine wasn't monotonous at all. And this is what the children of Israel despised and complained. And this is what God gave them to eat on the wilderness march.

Now, I'm turning back now to the 16th chapter of the book of Exodus and reading at verse 31. And the house of Israel called the name thereof manna. You know why they called it manna? What is it? And the question is today, who is he? And whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, He's the manna that came down from heaven to give life to the world.

And that's the way God gave life to these people on the wilderness march. It was like coriander seed, white. And the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

It must have been delicious. But they got tired of it. It was monotonous to them.

And they longed for those flesh pots down in the land of Egypt. My, how they went back to that. That is the story, I'm afraid, of some people.

It had been converted and they have been delivered out of the land of Egypt. But they every now and then make a side trip back to get the leeks, the onions, and the garlic of the land of Egypt. There are Christians today that need to make a break in their life.

Friends, you can't go on living like the world. You can't go on eating the food of Egypt and living on the things of Egypt and be serviceable for God. And to live for God and have the peace of God in your heart.

There must be a break with Egypt. And there must be a living on the true manna that came down from heaven, even the Lord Jesus Christ.

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